THE

HISTORY

OF

TOM JONES,

A

FOUNDLING.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

Thomas Smyth

THE

HISTORY

OF

TOM JONES,

A

FOUNDLING.

By HENRY FIELDING, Esq.

.....MORES HOMINUM MULTORUM VIDIT....

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THE

HISTORY

OF A

FOUNDLING.

BOOK XIII.

CONTAINING THE SPACE OF TWELVE DAYS.

CHAP. I.

An Invocation.

COME, bright Love of Fame, inſpire my glowing breaſt: not thee I call, who, over ſwelling tides of blood and tears, doſt bear the hero on to glory, while ſighs of millions waft his ſpreading ſails; but thee, fair, gentle maid, whom Muſis, happy nymph, firſt on the banks of Hebrus did produce; thee, whom Mæonia educated, whom Mantua charmed, and who, on that fair hill which overlooks the proud metropolis of Britain, ſat'ſt, with thy Milton, ſweetly tuning thy heroic lyre; fill my raviſhed fancy with the hopes of charming ages yet to come. Foretel me, that ſome tender maid, whoſe grandmother is yet unborn, hereafter, when under the fictitious name of Sophia, ſhe reads the real worth which once exiſted in my Charlotte, ſhall from her ſympathetic breaſt ſend forth the heaving ſigh. Do thou teach me, not only to foreſee, but to enjoy, nay even to feed on future praiſe. Comfort me by a ſolemn aſſurance, that, when the little parlour, in which I ſit at this inſtant,

ſhall be reduced to a worſe furniſhed box, I ſhall be read with honour by thoſe who never knew nor ſaw me, and whom I ſhall never know nor ſee.

And thou, much plumper dame, whom no airy forms nor phantoms of imagination clothe; whom the well-ſeaſoned beef, and pudding richly ſtained with plumbs, delight: Thee I call, of whom in a Treckſchuyte, in ſome Dutch canal, the fat ufrow gelt, impregnated by a jolly merchant of Amſterdam, was delivered; in Grub-ſtreet ſchool didſt thou ſuck in the elements of thy erudition. Here haſt thou, in thy maturer age, taught poetry to tickle, not the fancy, but the pride of the patron. Comedy from thee learns a grave and ſolemn air; while Tragedy ſtorms loud, and rends the affrighted theatres with its thunder. To ſooth thy wearied limbs in ſlumber, Alderman Hiſtory tells his tedious tale; and again, to awaken thee, Monſieur Romance performs his ſurpriſing tricks of dexterity. Nor leſs thy well-fed book-ſeller obeys thy influence. By thy advice, the heavy unread, folio lump, which long had dozed on the duſty ſhelf, piece-mealed into numbers, runs nimbly through the nation. Inſtructed by thee, ſome books, like quacks, impoſe upon the world by promiſing wonders; while others turn beaux, and truſt all their merits to a gilded outſide. Come, thou jolly ſubſtance, with thy ſhining face, keep back thy inſpiration, but hold forth thy tempting rewards; thy ſhining, chinking heap, thy quickly-convertible bank-bill, big with unſeen riches, thy often-varying ſtock, the warm, the comfortable houſe, and laſtly, a fair portion of that bounteous mother, whoſe flowing breaſts yield redundant ſuſtenance for all her numerous offspring, did not ſome too greedily and wantonly drive their brethren from the treat. Come thou, and, if I am too taſteleſs of thy valuable treaſures, warm my heart with the tranſporting thought of conveying them to others. Tell me that, through thy bounty, the prattling babes, whoſe innocent play hath often been interrupted by my labours, may one time be amply rewarded for them.

And now this ill-yoked pair, this lean ſhadow, and this fat ſubſtance, have prompted me to write, whoſe aſſiſtance ſhall I invoke to direct my pen?

First, Genius, thou gift of heaven, without whose aid in vain we struggle against the stream of nature. Thou, who dost sow the generous seeds which art nourishes, and brings to perfection; do thou kindly take me by the hand, and lead me through all the mazes, the winding labyrinths of nature. Initiate me into all those mysteries, which profane eyes never beheld. Teach me, which to thee is no difficult task, to know mankind better than they know themselves. Remove that mist which dims the intellects of mortals, and causes them to adore men for their art, or to detest them for their cunning in deceiving others, when they are in reality the objects only of ridicule for deceiving themselves. Strip off the thin disguise of wisdom from self-conceit, of plenty from avarice, and of glory from ambition. Come thou that hast inspired thy Aristophanes, thy Lucian, thy Cervantes, thy Rabelais, thy Moliere, thy Shakespeare, thy Swift, thy Marivaux, fill my pages with humour, till mankind learn the good nature to laugh only at the follies of others, and the humility to grieve at their own.

And thou, almost the constant attendant on true genius, Humanity, bring all thy tender sensations. If thou hast already disposed of them all between thy Allen and thy Lyttleton, steal them a little while from their bosoms. Not without these the tender scene is painted. From these alone proceed the noble disinterested friendship, the melting love, the generous sentiment, the ardent gratitude, the soft compassion, the candid opinion, and all those strong energies of a good mind, which fill the moistened eyes with tears, the glowing cheeks with blood, and swell the hearts with tides of grief, joy, and benevolence.

And thou, O Learning, (for without thy assistance nothing pure, nothing correct, can genius produce,) do thou guide my pen. Thee in thy favourite fields, where the limpid, gently-rolling Thames washes thy Etonian banks, in early youth I have worshipped. To thee at thy birchen altar, with true Spartan devotion, I have sacrificed my blood. Come, then, and from the vast luxuriant stores, in long antiquity piled up, pour forth the rich profusion. Open thy Mæonian and thy Mantuan coffers, with whatever else includes thy philosophic, thy

and thy hiſtorical treaſures, whether with Greek or Roman characters thou haſt choſen to inſcribe the ponderous cheſts: give me a while that key to all thy treaſures, which to thy Warburton thou haſt entruſted.

Laſtly, come, Experience, long converſant with the wiſe, the good, the learned, and the polite; nor with them only, but with every kind of character, from the miniſter at his levee, to the bailiff in his ſpunging-houſe; from the ducheſs at her drum, to the landlady behind her bar. From thee only can the manners of mankind be known; to which the recluſe pedant, however great his parts, or extenſive his learning may be, hath ever been a ſtranger.

Come all theſe, and more, if poſſible: for arduous is the taſk I have undertaken, and, without all your aſſiſtance, will, I find, be too heavy for me to ſupport. But, if you all ſmile on my labours, I hope ſtill to bring them to a happy concluſion.

CHAP. II.

What befel Mr Jones *on his Arrival in* London.

THE learned Dr Miſaubin uſed to ſay, that the proper direction to him was, *To Dr Miſaubin in the World*; intimating, that there were few people in it to whom his great reputation was not known. And perhaps upon a very nice examination into the matter, we ſhall find that this circumſtance bears no inconſiderable part among the many bleſſings of grandeur.

The great happineſs of being known to poſterity, with the hopes of which we ſo delighted ourſelves in the preceding chapter, is the portion of few. To have the ſeveral elements which compoſe our names, as Sydenham expreſſes it, repeated a thouſand years hence, is a gift beyond the power of title and wealth, and is ſcarce to be purchaſed, unleſs by the ſword and the pen. But to avoid the ſcandalous imputation, while we yet live, of being *one whom nobody knows*, (a ſcandal by the by as old as the days of Homer*,) will always be the envied portion.

* See the 2d Odyſſey, ver. 175.

tion of thoſe, who have a legal title either to honour or eſtate.

From the figure, therefore, which the Iriſh peer, who brought Sophia to town, hath already made in this hiſtory, the reader will conclude, doubtleſs, it muſt have been an eaſy matter to have diſcovered his houſe in London, without knowing the particular ſtreet or ſquare which he inhabited, ſince he muſt have been *one whom every body knows*. To ſay the truth, ſo it would have been to any of thoſe tradeſmen who were accuſtomed to attend the regions of the great; for the doors of the great are generally no leſs eaſy to find, than it is difficult to get entrance into them. But Jones, as well as Partridge, was an entire ſtranger in London; and as he happened to arrive firſt in a quarter of the town, the inhabitants of which have very little intercourſe with the houſeholders of Hanover or Groſvenor-ſquare, (for he entered thro' Gray's-Inn-Lane,) ſo he rambled about ſome time, before he could even find his way to thoſe happy manſions, where fortune ſegregates from the vulgar thoſe magnanimous heroes, the deſcendants of ancient Britons, Saxons, or Danes, whoſe anceſtors, being born in better days, by ſundry kinds of merit, have entailed riches and honour on their poſterity.

Jones, being at length arrived at thoſe terreſtrial Elyſian fields, would now ſoon have diſcovered his lordſhip's manſion; but the peer unluckily quitted his former houſe when he went for Ireland; and, as he was juſt entered into a new one, the fame of his equipage had not yet ſufficiently blazed in the neighbourhood: ſo that, after a ſucceſsleſs inquiry till the clock had ſtruck eleven, Jones at laſt yielded to the advice of Partridge, and retreated to the Bull and Gate in Holburn, that being the inn where he had firſt alighted, and where he retired to enjoy that kind of repoſe which uſually attends perſons in his circumſtances.

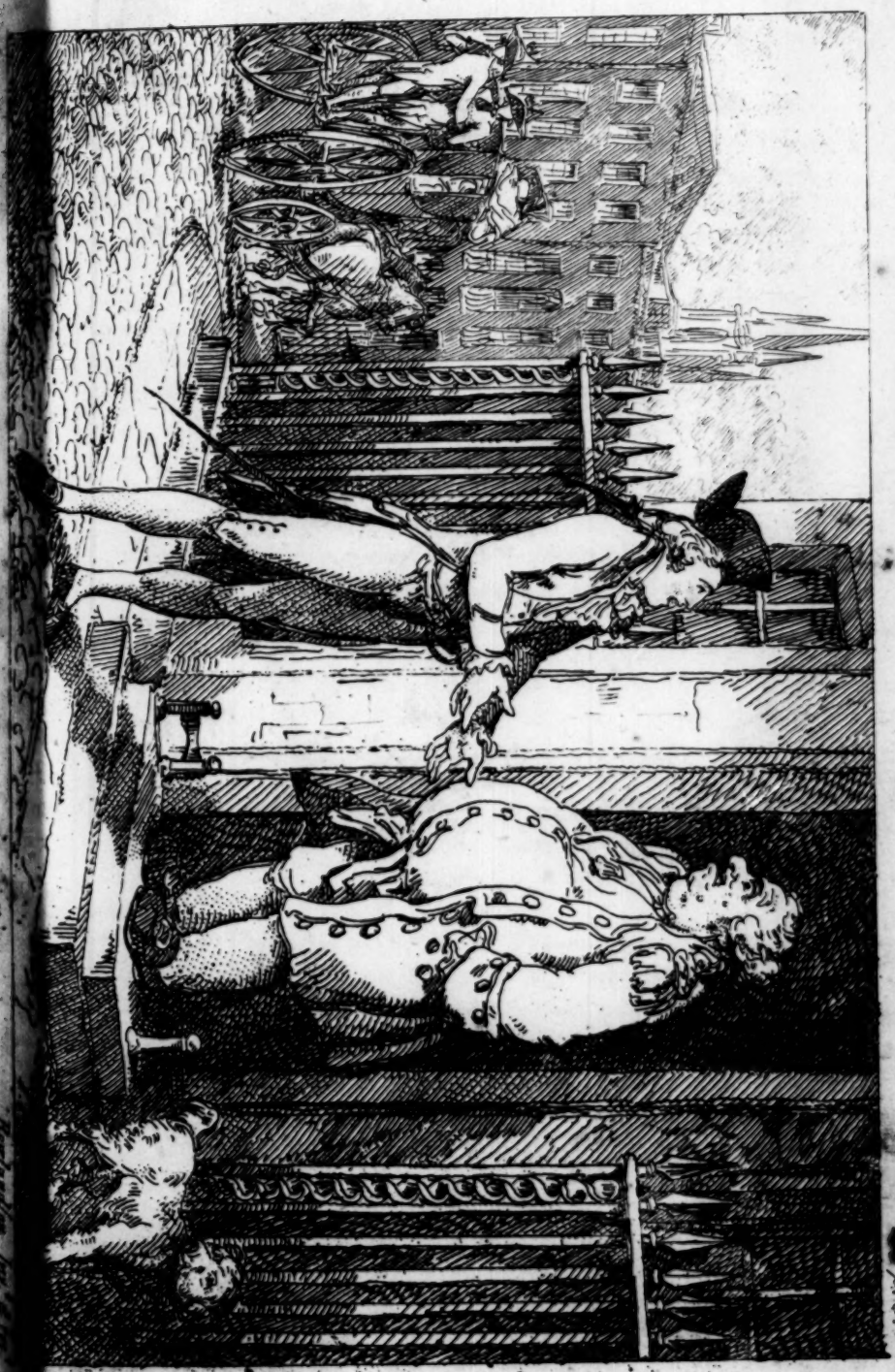
Early in the morning he again ſet forth in purſuit of Sophia; and many a weary ſtep he took to no better purpoſe than before. At laſt, whether it was that fortune relented, or whether it was no longer in her power to diſappoint him, he came into the very ſtreet which was honoured by his lordſhip's reſidence; and, being directed

directed to the houſe, he gave one gentle rap at the door.

The porter, who from the modeſty of the knock had conceived no high idea of the perſon approaching, conceived but little better from the appearance of Mr Jones, who was dreſt in a ſuit of fuſtian, and had by his ſide the weapon formerly purchaſed of the ſerjeant; of which, though the blade might be compoſed of well-tempered ſteel, the handle was compoſed only of braſs, and that none of the brighteſt. When Jones, therefore, inquired after the young lady, who had come to town with his lordſhip, this fellow anſwered ſurlily, "That there "were no ladies there." Jones then deſired to ſee the maſter of the houſe; but was informed that his lordſhip would ſee nobody that morning. And upon growing more preſſing, the porter ſaid, "he had poſi-"tive orders to let no perſon in; but if you think "proper," ſaid he, "to leave your name, I will acquaint "his lordſhip; and, if you call another time, you ſhall "know when he will ſee you."

Jones now declared, "that he had very particular "buſineſs with the young lady, and could not depart with-"out ſeeing her." Upon which the porter, with no very agreeable voice or aſpect, affirmed, "that there was "no young lady in the houſe, and conſequently none "could he ſee;" adding, "ſure you are the ſtrangeſt "man I ever met with, for you will not take an an-"ſwer."

I have often thought, that, by the particular deſcription of Cerberus, the porter of hell, in the 6th Æneid, Virgil might poſſibly intend to ſatirize the porters of the great men in his time; the picture at leaſt reſembles thoſe who have the honour to attend at the doors of our great men. The porter in his lodge anſwers exactly to Cerberus in his den, and, like him, muſt be appeaſed by a ſop, before acceſs can be gained to his maſter. Perhaps Jones might have ſeen him in that light, and have recollected the paſſage, where the Sybil, in order to procure an entrance for Æneas, preſents the keeper of the Stygian avenue with ſuch a ſop. Jones, in like manner, now began to offer a bribe to the human Cerberus, which a footman overhearing, inſtantly advanced, and declared,



declared, "if Mr Jones would give him the ſum propo-
"ſed, he would conduct him to the lady." Jones inſtantly agreed, and was forthwith conducted to the lodging of Mrs Fitzpatrick, by the very fellow who had attended the ladies thither the day before.

Nothing more aggravates ill ſucceſs than the near approach to good. The gameſter, who loſes his party at piquet by a ſingle point, laments his bad luck ten times as much as he who never came within a proſpect of the game. So in a lottery, the proprietors of the next numbers to that which win the great prize, are apt to account themſelves much more unfortunate than their fellow-ſufferers. In ſhort, theſe kind of hair-breadth miſſings of happineſs look like the inſults of fortune, who may be conſidered as thus playing tricks with us, and wantonly diverting herſelf at our expence.

Jones, who more than once already had experienced this frolickſome diſpoſition of the heathen goddeſs, was now again doomed to be tantalized in the like manner: for he arrived at the door of Mrs Fitzpatrick, about ten minutes after the departure of Sophia. He now addreſſed himſelf to the waiting-woman belonging to Mrs Fitzpatrick, who told him the diſagreeable news that the lady was gone, but could not tell him whither; and the ſame anſwer he afterwards received from Mrs Fitzpatrick herſelf. For as that lady made no doubt but that Mr Jones was a perſon detached from her uncle Weſtern, in purſuit of his daughter, ſo ſhe was too generous to betray her.

Though Jones had never ſeen Mrs Fitzpatrick, yet, he had heard that a couſin of Sophia was married to a gentleman of that name. This, however, in the preſent tumult of his mind, never once recurred to his memory: but when the footman, who had conducted him from his lordſhip's, acquainted him with the great intimacy between the ladies, and with their calling each other couſin, he then recollected the ſtory of the marriage which he had formerly heard; and as he was preſently convinced that this was the ſame woman, he became more ſurpriſed at the anſwer which he had received, and very earneſtly deſired leave to wait on the lady herſelf,

herſelf, but ſhe as poſitively refuſed him that honour.

Jones, who, though he had never ſeen a court, was better bred than moſt who frequent it, was incapable of any rude or abrupt behaviour to a lady. When he had received therefore, a peremptory denial, he retired for the preſent, ſaying to the waiting-woman, "That, if this "was an improper hour to wait on the lady, he would "return in the afternoon, and that he then hoped to "have the honour of ſeeing her." The civility with which he uttered this, added to the great comelineſs of his perſon, made an impreſſion on the waiting-woman, and ſhe could not help anſwering, "Perhaps, Sir, you "may;" and, indeed, ſhe afterwards ſaid every thing to her miſtreſs, which ſhe thought moſt likely to prevail upon her to admit a viſit from the handſome young gentleman, for ſo ſhe called him.

Jones very ſhrewdly ſuſpected, that Sophia herſelf was now with her couſin, and was denied to him; which he imputed to her reſentment of what had happened at Upton. Having, therefore, diſpatched Partridge to procure him lodgings, he remained all day in the ſtreet, watching the door where he thought his angel lay concealed; but no perſon did he ſee iſſue forth, except a ſervant of the houſe; and in the evening he returned to pay his viſit to Mrs Fitzpatrick, which that good lady at laſt condeſcended to admit.

There is a certain air of natural gentility, which it is neither in the power of dreſs to give, nor to conceal. Mr Jones, as hath been before hinted, was poſſeſſed of this in a very eminent degree. He met, therefore, with a reception from the lady, ſomewhat different from what his apparel ſeemed to demand; and, after he had paid her his proper reſpects, was deſired to ſit down.

The reader will not, I believe, be deſirous of knowing all the particulars of this converſation, which ended very little to the ſatisfaction of poor Jones: for though Mrs Fitzpatrick ſoon diſcovered the lover, (as all women have the eyes of hawks in thoſe matters,) yet ſhe ſtill thought it was ſuch a lover, as a generous friend of the lady ſhould not betray her to. In ſhort, ſhe ſuſpected this was

was the very Mr Blifil from whom Sophia had flown; and all the anſwers, which ſhe artfully drew from Mr Jones concerning Mr Allworthy's family, confirmed her in this opinion. She therefore ſtrictly denied any knowledge concerning the place whither Sophia was gone, nor could Jones obtain more than a permiſſion to wait upon her again the next evening.

When Jones was departed, Mrs Fitzpatrick communicated her ſuſpicion concerning Mr Blifil to her maid, who anſwered, "Sure, Madam, he is too pretty a man, "in my opinion, for any woman in the world to run "away from. I had rather fancy it is Mr Jones."—"Mr Jones," ſaid the lady; "what Jones?" For Sophia had not given the leaſt hint of any ſuch perſon in all their converſation: but Mrs Honour had been much more communicative, and had acquainted her ſiſter Abigail with the whole hiſtory of Jones, which this now again related to her miſtreſs.

Mrs Fitzpatrick no ſooner received this information, than ſhe immediately agreed with the opinion of her maid; and what is very unaccountable, ſaw charms in the gallant happy lover, which ſhe had overlooked in the ſlighted 'ſquire. "Betty," ſays ſhe, "you are certainly "in the right; he is a very pretty fellow, and I don't "wonder that my couſin's maid ſhould tell you ſo many "women are fond of him. I am ſorry now I did not "inform him where my couſin was; and yet, if he be "ſo terrible a rake as you tell me, it is a pity ſhe ſhould "ſee him any more; for what but her ruin can happen "from marrying a rake and a beggar againſt her father's "conſent. I proteſt, if he be ſuch a man as the wench "deſcribed him to you, it is but an office of charity "to keep her from him; and, I am ſure, it would be "unpardonable in me to do otherwiſe, who have taſted "ſo bitterly of the misfortunes attending ſuch mar-"riages."

Here ſhe was interrupted by the arrival of a viſitor, which was no other than his lordſhip; and as nothing paſſed at this viſit either new or extraordinary, or any ways material to this hiſtory, we ſhall here put an end to this chapter.

CHAP. III.

A Project of Mrs Fitzpatrick, *and her Visit to Lady* Bellaston.

WHEN Mrs Fitzpatrick retired to reſt, her thoughts were entirely taken up by her couſin Sophia and Mr Jones. She was indeed a little offended with the former for the diſingenuity which ſhe now diſcovered. In which meditation ſhe had not long exerciſed her imagination, before the following conceit ſuggeſted itſelf; that, could ſhe poſſibly become the means of preſerving Sophia from this man, and of reſtoring her to her father; ſhe ſhould, in all human probability, by ſo great a ſervice to the family, reconcile herſelf both to her uncle and her aunt Weſtern.

As this was one of her moſt favourite wiſhes, ſo the hope of ſucceſs ſeemed ſo reaſonable, that nothing remained but to conſider of proper methods to accompliſh her ſcheme. To attempt to reaſon the caſe with Sophia, did not appear to her one of thoſe methods; for as Betty had reported from Mrs Honour, that Sophia had a violent inclination to Jones, ſhe conceived, that to diſſuade her from the match was an endeavour of the ſame kind, as it would be very heartily and earneſtly to entreat a moth not to fly into a candle.

If the reader will pleaſe to remember, that the acquaintance which Sophia had with Lady Bellaſton was contracted at the houſe of Mrs Weſtern, and muſt have grown at the very time when Mrs Fitzpatrick lived with this latter lady, he will want no information, that Mrs Fitzpatrick muſt have been acquainted with her likewiſe. They were, beſides, both equally her diſtant relations.

After much conſideration, therefore, ſhe reſolved to go early in the morning to that lady, and endeavour to ſee her, unknown to Sophia, and to acquaint her with the whole affair: for ſhe did not in the leaſt doubt but that this prudent lady, who had often ridiculed romantic love and indiſcreet marriages in her converſation, would very readily concur in her ſentiments concerning this match,

match, and would lend her utmoſt aſſiſtance to prevent it.

This reſolution ſhe accordingly executed, and the next morning, before the ſun, ſhe huddled on her clothes, and, at a very unfaſhionable, unſeaſonable, unviſitable hour, went to Lady Bellaſton, to whom ſhe got acceſs, without the leaſt knowledge or ſuſpicion of Sophia, who, though not aſleep, lay at that time awake in her bed, with Honour ſnoring by her ſide.

Mrs Fitzpatrick made many apologies for any early abrupt viſit, at an hour when, ſhe ſaid, "ſhe ſhould not "have thought of diſturbing her ladyſhip, but upon "buſineſs of the utmoſt conſequence." She then opened the whole affair, told all ſhe had heard from Betty, and did not forget the viſit which Jones had paid to herſelf the preceding evening.

Lady Bellaſton anſwered with a ſmile, "Then you "have ſeen this terrible man, Madam: pray is he ſo very "fine a figure as he is repreſented? for Etoff entertained me laſt night almoſt two hours with him. The "wench I believe is in love with him by reputation." Here the reader will be apt to wonder; but the truth is, that Mrs Etoff, who had the honour to pin and unpin the Lady Bellaſton, had received compleat information concerning the ſaid Mr Jones, and had faithfully conveyed the ſame to her lady laſt night, (or rather that morning,) while ſhe was undreſſing; on which account ſhe had been detained in her office above the ſpace of an hour and an half.

The lady, indeed, though generally well enough pleaſed with the narratives of Mrs Etoff at thoſe ſeaſons, gave an extraordinary attention to her account of Jones; for Honour had deſcribed him a as very handſome fellow, and Mrs Etoff in her hurry added ſo much to the beauty of his perſon to her report, that lady Bellaſton began to conceive him to be a kind of miracle in nature.

The curioſity which her woman had inſpired was now greatly increaſed by Mrs Fitzpatrick, who ſpoke as much in the favour of the perſon of Jones, as ſhe had before ſpoken in diſpraiſe of his birth, character, and fortune.

When lady Bellaſton had heard the whole, ſhe anſwered gravely, "Indeed, Madam, this is a matter of "great conſequence. Nothing can certainly be more "commendable than the part you act; and I ſhall be "very glad to have my ſhare in the preſervation of a "young lady of ſo much merit, and for whom I have "ſo much eſteem."

"Doth not your ladyſhip think," ſays Mrs Fitzpatrick eagerly, "that it would be the beſt way to write "immediately to my uncle, and acquaint him where my "couſin is?"

The lady pondered a little upon this, and thus anſwered;—"Why, no, Madam, I think not. D'! Weſtern "hath deſcribed her brother to me to be ſuch a brute, "that I cannot conſent to put any woman under his "power who hath eſcaped from it. I have heard he "behaved like a monſter to his own wife; for he is one "of thoſe wretches who think they have a right to ty-"rannize over us, and from ſuch I ſhall ever eſteem it "the cauſe of my ſex to reſcue any woman who is ſo un-"fortunate to be under their power.——The buſineſs, "dear couſin, will be only to keep Miſs Weſtern from "ſeeing this young fellow, till the good company, which "ſhe will have an opportunity of meeting here, give her "a proper turn."

"If he ſhould find her out, Madam," anſwered the other, "your ladyſhip may be aſſured he will leave no-"thing unattempted to come at her."

"But, Madam," replied the lady, "it is impoſſible he "ſhould come here—though indeed it is poſſible he "may get ſome intelligence where ſhe is, and then may "lurk about the houſe—I wiſh therefore I knew his "perſon.

"Is there no way, Madam, by which I could have a "ſight of him? for otherwiſe you know, couſin, ſhe "may contrive to ſee him here without my knowledge." Mrs Fitzpatrick anſwered, "That he had threatened her "with another viſit that afternoon, and that, if her la-"dyſhip pleaſed to do her the honour of calling upon "her then, ſhe would hardly fail of ſeeing him between "ſix and ſeven; and if he came earlier, ſhe would by "ſome means or other detain him till her ladyſhip's ar-

"rival."

" rival."—Lady Bellaſton replied, " ſhe would come the " moment ſhe could get from dinner, which ſhe ſuppoſed " would be by ſeven at the fartheſt; for that it was abſo- " lutely neceſſary ſhe ſhould be acquainted with his perſon. " Upon my word, Madam," ſays ſhe, " it was very good " to take this care of Miſs Weſtern: but common hu- " manity, as well as regard to our family, requires it " of us both; for it would be a dreadful match in- " deed."

Mrs Fitzpatrick failed not to make a proper return to the compliment which Lady Bellaſton had beſtowed on her couſin, and, after ſome little immaterial converſation, withdrew; and, getting as faſt as ſhe could into her chair, unſeen by Sophia or Honour, returned home.

CHAP. IV.

Which conſiſts of Viſiting.

MR Jones had walked within ſight of a certain door during the whole day, which, though one of the ſhorteſt, appeared to him to be one of the longeſt in the whole year. At length the clock having ſtruck five, he returned to Mrs Fitzpatrick, who, though it was a full hour earlier than the decent time of viſiting, received him very civilly, but ſtill perſiſted in her ignorance concerning Sophia.

Jones, in aſking for his angel, had dropped the word couſin; upon which Mrs Fitzpatrick ſaid, " Then, Sir, " you know we are related; and, as we are, you will per- " mit me the right of inquiring into the particulars of " your buſineſs with my couſin." Here Jones heſitated a good while, and at laſt anſwered, " He had a conſi- " derable ſum of money of hers in his hands which he " deſired to deliver to her." He then produced the pocket-book, and acquainted Mrs Fitzpatrick with the contents, and with the method in which they came into his hands. He had ſcarce finiſhed his ſtory, when a violent noiſe ſhook the whole houſe. To attempt to deſcribe this noiſe to thoſe who have heard it, would be in vain,

vain, and to aim at giving any idea of it to thoſe who have never heard the like, would be ſtill more vain: for it may be truly ſaid,

——————*Zon acuta*
Sic geminaut corybantes æra.

The prieſts of Cybele do not ſo rattle their ſounding braſs.

In ſhort, a footman knocked, or rather thundered at the door. Jones was a little ſurpriſed at the ſound, having never heard it before; but Mrs Fitzpatrick very calmly ſaid, that, as ſome company were coming, ſhe could not make him any anſwer now; but, if he pleaſed to ſtay till they were gone, ſhe intimated ſhe had ſomething to ſay to him.

The door of the room now flew open, and, after puſhing in her hoop ſideways before her, entered Lady Bellaſton, who, having firſt made a low curtſey to Mrs Fitzpatrick, and as low a one to Mr Jones, was uſhered to the upper end of the room.

We mention theſe minute matters for the ſake of ſome country ladies of our acquaintance, who think it contrary to the rules of modeſty to bend their knees to a man.

The company were hardly well ſettled, before the arrival of the peer, lately mentioned, cauſed a freſh diſturbance, and a repetition of ceremonials.

Theſe being over, the converſation began to be (as the phraſe is) extremely brilliant. However, as nothing paſt in it which can be thought material in itſelf, I ſhall omit the relation, the rather as I have known ſome very fine polite converſation grow extremely dull, when tranſcribed into books, or repeated on the ſtage. Indeed this mental repaſt is a dainty, of which thoſe, who are excluded from polite aſſemblies, muſt be contented to remain as ignorant as they muſt of the ſeveral dainties of the French cookery, which are ſerved only at the tables of the great. To ſay the truth, as neither of theſe are adapted to every taſte, they might both be often thrown away on the vulgar.

Poor

Poor Jones was rather a ſpectator of this elegant ſcene than an actor in it; for though, in the ſhort interval before the peer's arrival, Lady Bellaſton firſt, and afterwards Mrs Fitzpatrick, had addreſſed ſome of their diſcourſe to him, yet no ſooner was the noble lord entered, than he engroſſed the whole attention of the two ladies to himſelf; and as he took no more notice of Jones, than if no ſuch perſon had been preſent, unleſs by now and then ſtaring at him, the ladies followed his example.

The company had now ſtaid ſo long, that Mrs Fitzpatrick plainly perceived they all deſigned to ſtay out each other. She therefore reſolved to rid herſelf of Jones, he being the viſitant to whom ſhe thought the leaſt ceremony was due. Taking therefore an opportunity of a ceſſation of chat, ſhe addreſſed herſelf gravely to him, and ſaid, "Sir, I ſhall not poſſibly be able to "give you an anſwer to-night as to that buſineſs; but if "you pleaſe to leave word where I may ſend to you to-"morrow."——

Jones had natural, but not artificial good-breeding. Inſtead therefore of communicating the ſecret of his lodgings to a ſervant, he acquainted the lady herſelf with it particularly, and ſoon after very ceremoniouſly withdrew.

He was no ſooner gone, than the great perſonages, who had taken no notice of him preſent, began to take much notice of him in his abſence; but if the reader hath already excuſed us from relating the more brilliant part of this converſation, he will ſurely be very ready to excuſe the repetition of what may be called vulgar abuſe, though perhaps it may be material to our hiſtory to mention an obſervation of Lady Bellaſton, who took her leave in a few minutes after him, and then ſaid to Mrs Fitzpatrick, at her departure, "I am ſatisfied on the account of my "couſin; ſhe can be in no danger from this fellow."

Our hiſtory ſhall follow the example of Lady Bellaſton, and take leave of the preſent company, which was now reduced to two perſons; between whom, as nothing paſſed, which in the leaſt concerns us or our reader, we ſhall not ſuffer ourſelves to be diverted by it from mat-

ters

ters which muſt ſeem of more conſequence to all thoſe who are at all intereſted in the affairs of our hero.

CHAP. V.

An Adventure which happened to Mr Jones *at his lodgings, with ſome account of a young gentleman, who lodged there, and of the miſtreſs of the houſe, and her two daughters.*

THE next morning, as early as it was decent, Jones attended at Mrs Fitzpatrick's door, where he was anſwered that the lady was not at home; an anſwer which ſurprized him the more, as he had walked backwards and forwards in the ſtreet from break of day; and if ſhe had gone out, he muſt have ſeen her. This, anſwer, however, he was obliged to receive, and not only now, but to five ſeveral viſits, which he made her that day.

To be plain with the reader, the noble peer had, from ſome reaſon or other, perhaps from a regard for the lady's honour, inſiſted that he ſhould not ſee Mr Jones, whom he looked on as a ſcrub, any more; and the lady had complied in making that promiſe, to which we now ſee her ſo ſtrictly adhere.

But as our gentle reader may poſſibly have a better opinion of the young gentleman than her ladyſhip, and may even have ſome concern, ſhould it be apprehended, that during this unhappy ſeparation from Sophia, he took up his reſidence either at an inn, or in the ſtreet; we ſhall now give an account of his lodging, which was indeed a very reputable houſe, and in a very good part of the town.

Mr Jones then had often heard Mr Allworthy mention the gentlewoman at whoſe houſe he uſed to lodge when he was in town. This perſon, who, as Jones likewiſe knew, lived in Bond-ſtreet, was the widow of a clergyman, and was left by him at his deceaſe, in poſſeſſion of two daughters, and of a compleat ſet of manuſcript ſermons.

Of theſe two daughters, Nancy, the elder, was now arrived at the age of ſeventeen, and Betty, the younger, at that of ten.

Hither Jones had diſpatched Partridge, and in this houſe he was provided with a room for himſelf in the ſecond floor, and with one for Partridge in the fourth.

The firſt floor was inhabited by one of thoſe young gentlemen, who, in the laſt age, were called men of wit and pleaſure about town, and properly enough: for as men are uſually denominated from their buſineſs or profeſſion, ſo pleaſure may be ſaid to have been the only buſineſs or profeſſion of thoſe gentlemen to whom fortune had made all uſeful occupations unneceſſary—Play-houſes, coffee-houſes, and taverns, were the ſcenes of their rendezvous. Wit and humour were the entertainments of their looſer hours, and love was the buſineſs of their more ſerious moments. Wine and the muſes conſpired to kindle the brighteſt flame in their breaſts; nor did they only admire, but ſome were able to celebrate the beauty they admired, and all to judge of the merit of ſuch compoſitions.

Such therefore were properly called the men of wit and pleaſure: but I queſtion whether the ſame appellation may, with the ſame propriety, be given to thoſe young gentlemen of our times, who have the ſame ambition to be diſtinguiſhed for parts. Wit, certainly, they have nothing to do with. To give them their due, they ſoar a ſtep higher than their predeceſſors, and may be called men of wiſdom and vertù; (take heed you do not read virtue.) Thus at an age when the gentlemen above-mentioned employed their time in toaſting the charms of a woman, or in making ſonnets in her praiſe; in giving their opinion of a play at the theatre, or of a poem at Will's, or Button's; theſe gentlemen are conſidering of methods to bribe a corporation, or meditating ſpeeches for the Houſe of Commons, or rather for the magazines; but the ſcience of gaming is that which above all others employs their thoughts. Theſe are the ſtudies of their graver hours, while for their amuſements they have the vaſt circle of connoiſſeurſhip, painting, muſic, ſtatuary, and natural philoſophy, or rather *unnatural*, which deals in the wonderful, and knows

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nothing of nature, except her monſters and imperfections.

When Jones had ſpent the whole day in vain inquiries after Mrs Fitzpatrick, he returned at laſt diſconſolate to his apartment. Here, while he was venting his grief in private, he heard a violent uproar below ſtairs; and ſoon after a female voice begged him for Heaven's ſake to come and prevent murder. Jones, who was never backward on any occaſion to help the diſtreſſed, immediately ran down ſtairs; when, ſtepping into the dining-room, whence all the noiſe iſſued, he beheld the young gentleman of wiſdom and vertù, juſt before-mentioned, pinned cloſe to the wall by his footman, and a young woman ſtanding by, wringing her hands, and crying out, "He "will be murdered, he will be murdered;" and indeed the poor gentleman ſeemed in ſome danger of being choaked, when Jones flew haſtily to his aſſiſtance, and reſcued him juſt as he was breathing his laſt, from the unmerciful clutches of the enemy.

Though the fellow had received ſeveral kicks and cuffs from the little gentleman, who had more ſpirit than ſtrength, he had made it a kind of ſcruple of conſcience to ſtrike his maſter, and would have contented himſelf with only choaking him; but towards Jones he bore no ſuch reſpect; he no ſooner therefore found himſelf a little roughly handled by his new antagoniſt, than he gave him one of thoſe punches in the guts, which, though the ſpectators at Broughton's amphitheatre have ſuch exquiſite delight in ſeeing them, convey but very little pleaſure in the feeling.

The luſty youth had no ſooner received this blow, than he meditated a moſt grateful return; and now enſued a combat between Jones and the footman, which was very fierce, but ſhort; for this fellow was no more able to contend with Jones, than his maſter had before been to contend with him.

And now fortune, according to her uſual cuſtom, reverſed the face of affairs. The former victor lay breathleſs on the ground, and the vanquiſhed gentleman had recovered breath enough to thank Mr Jones for his ſeaſonable aſſiſtance: he received likewiſe the hearty thanks

of

of the young woman preſent, who was indeed no other than Miſs Nancy, the eldeſt daughter of the houſe.

The footman having now recovered his legs, ſhook his head at Jones, and with a ſagacious look cry'd,—"O "d—n me, I'll have nothing more to do with you; you "have been upon the ſtage, or I am d—nably miſta-"ken:" And indeed we may forgive this his ſuſpicion: for ſuch was the agility and ſtrength of our hero, that he was perhaps a match for one of the firſt-rate boxers, and could, with great eaſe, have beaten all the muffled * graduates of Mr Broughton's ſchool.

The maſter, foaming with wrath, ordered his man immediately to ſtrip, to which the latter very readily agreed, on condition of receiving his wages. This condition was preſently complied with, and the fellow was diſcharged.

And now the young gentleman, whoſe name was Nightingale, very ſtrenuouſly inſiſted, that his deliverer ſhould take part of a bottle of wine with him; to which Jones, after much intreaty, conſented, though more out of complaiſance than inclination; for the uneaſineſs of his mind fitted him very little for converſation at this time. Miſs Nancy likewiſe, who was the only female then in the houſe, her mamma and ſiſter being both gone to the play, condeſcended to favour them with her company.

When the bottle and glaſſes were on the table, the gentleman began to relate the occaſion of the preceding diſturbance.

"I hope, Sir," ſaid he to Jones, "you will not from "this accident conclude, that I make a cuſtom of ſtrik-

* Leſt poſterity ſhould be puzzled by this epithet, I think proper to explain it by an advertiſement which was publiſhed Feb. 1. 1747.

N. B. Mr Broughton propoſes, with proper aſſiſtance, to open an academy at his houſe in the Hay-market, for the inſtruction of thoſe who are willing to be initiated in the myſtery of boxing; where the whole theory and practice of that truly Britiſh art, with all the various ſtops, blows, croſs-buttocks, &c. incident to combatants, will be fully taught and explained; and, that perſons of quality and diſtinction may not be deterred from entering into *a courſe of theſe lectures*, they will be given with the utmoſt tenderneſs and regard to the delicacy of the frame and conſtitution of the pupil, for which reaſon muffles are provided, that will effectually ſecure them from the inconveniency of black eyes, broken jaws, and bloody noſes.

" ing my ſervants; for I aſſure you this is the firſt time " I have been guilty of it in my remembrance, and I " have paſſed by many provoking faults in this very fel- " low, before he could provoke me to it; but when " you hear what hath happened this evening, you will, " I believe, think me excuſable, I happened to come " home ſeveral hours before my uſual time, when I found " four gentlemen of the cloth at whiſt by my fire;—and " my Hoyle, Sir,—my beſt Hoyle, which coſt me a " guinea, lying open on the table, with a quantity of por- " ter ſpilt on one of the moſt material leaves of the " whole book. This, you will allow, was provoking; but I " ſaid nothing till the reſt of the honeſt company was " gone, and then gave the fellow a gentle rebuke, who, " inſtead of expreſſing any concern, made me a pert an- " ſwer, That ſervants muſt have their diverſions as well as " other people; that he was ſorry for the accident which " had happened to the book, but that ſeveral of his ac- " quaintance had bought the ſame for a ſhilling; and that " I might ſtop as much in his wages, if I pleaſed." I now " gave him a ſeverer reprimand than before, when the " raſcal had the inſolence to——In ſhort, he imputed " my early coming home to——In ſhort, he caſt a re- " flection——He mentioned the name of a young lady " in a manner—in ſuch a manner that incenſed me " beyond all patience; and, in my paſſion, I ſtruck " him."

Jones anſwered, " That he believed no perſon living " would blame him: for my part, ſaid he, " I confeſs I " ſhould, on the laſt-mentioned provocation, have done " the ſame thing."

Our company had not ſat long before they were join- ed by the mother and daughter, at their return from the play. And now they all ſpent a very cheerful evening ogether; for all but Jones were heartily merry, and tven he put on as much conſtrained mirth as poſſible. endeed half his natural flow of animal ſpirits, joined to the ſweetneſs of his temper, was ſufficient to make a moſt amiable companion; and notwithſtanding the heavineſs of his heart, ſo agreeable did he make himſelf on the preſent occaſion, that, at their breaking up, the young gentleman earneſtly deſired his further acquaintance.

Miſs

Miſs Nancy was well pleaſed with him; and the widow, quite charmed with her new lodger, invited him with the other next morning to breakfaſt.

Jones, on his part, was no leſs ſatisfied. As for Miſs Nancy, though a very little creature, ſhe was extremely pretty, and the widow had all the charms which can adorn a woman near fifty. As ſhe was one of the moſt innocent creatures in the world, ſo ſhe was one of the moſt cheerful. She never thought, nor ſpoke, nor wiſhed any ill, and had conſtantly that deſire of pleaſing, which may be called the happieſt of all deſires in this, that it ſcarce ever fails of attaining its ends, when not diſgraced by affectation. In ſhort, though her power was very ſmall, ſhe was in her heart one of the warmeſt friends. She had been a moſt affectionate wife, and was a moſt fond and tender mother.

As our hiſtory doth not, like a news-paper, give great characters to people who never were heard of before, nor will ever be heard of again, the reader may hence conclude, that this excellent woman will hereafter appear to be of ſome importance in our hiſtory.

Nor was Jones a little pleaſed with the young gentleman himſelf, whoſe wine he had been drinking. He thought he diſcerned in him much good ſenſe, though a a little too much tainted with town-foppery; but what recommended him moſt to Jones were ſome ſentiments of generoſity and humanity, which occaſionally dropt from him, and particularly many expreſſions of the higheſt diſintereſtedneſs in the affair of love: On which ſubject the young gentleman delivered himſelf in a language, which might have very well become an Arcadian ſhepherd of old, and which appeared very extraordinary when proceeding from the lips of a modern fine gentleman; but he was only one by imitation, and meant by nature for a much better character.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

What arrived while the Company were at Breakfaſt, with ſome hints concerning the Government of Daughters.

OUR company brought together in the morning the ſame good inclinations towards each other with which they had ſeparated the evening before; but poor Jones was extremely diſconſolate; for he had juſt received information from Partridge, that Mrs Fitzpatrick had left her lodging, and that he could not learn whither ſhe was gone. This news highly afflicted him, and his countenance, as well as his behaviour, in defiance of all his endeavours to the contrary, betrayed manifeſt indications of a diſordered mind.

The diſcourſe turned at preſent, as before, on love; and Mr Nightingale again expreſſed many of thoſe warm, generous, and diſintereſted ſentiments upon this ſubject, which wiſe and ſober men call romantic, but which wiſe and ſober women generally regard in a better light. Mrs Miller (for ſo the Miſtreſs of the houſe was called,) greatly approved theſe ſentiments; but, when the young gentleman applied to Miſs Nancy, ſhe anſwered only, "That ſhe "believed the gentleman, who had ſpoke the leaſt, was "capable of feeling the moſt."

This compliment was ſo apparently directed to Jones, that we ſhould have been ſorry had he paſſed it by unregarded. He made her indeed a very polite anſwer, and concluded with an oblique hint, that her own ſilence ſubjected her to a ſuſpicion of the ſame kind; for indeed ſhe had ſcarce opened her lips either now, or the laſt evening.

"I am glad, Nancy," ſays Mrs Miller, "the gentle-"man hath made the obſervation; I proteſt I am al-"moſt of his opinion. What can be the matter with "you, child? I never ſaw ſuch an alteration. What is "become of all your gaiety? Would you think, Sir, I "uſed to call her my little prattler? She hath not ſpoke "twenty words this week."

Here their converſation was interrupted by the entrance of a maid ſervant, who brought a bundle in her hands,

hands, which, ſhe ſaid, "was delivered by a porter for "Mr Jones. She added "that the man immediately "went away, ſaying it required no anſwer."

Jones expreſſed ſome ſurpriſe on this occaſion, and declared it muſt be ſome miſtake; but, the maid perſiſting that ſhe was certain of the name, all the women were deſirous of having the bundle immediately opened; which operation was at length performed by little Betſey, with the conſent of Mr Jones; and the contents were found to be a domino, a maſk, and a maſquerade ticket.

Jones was now more poſitive than ever, in aſſerting, that theſe things muſt have been delivered by miſtake; and Mrs Miller herſelf expreſſed ſome doubt, and ſaid, "ſhe knew not what to think." But when Mr Nightingale was aſked, he delivered a very different opinion. "All I can conclude from it, Sir," ſaid he, "is, that "you are a very happy man; for I make no doubt but "theſe were ſent you by ſome lady whom you will have "the happineſs of meeting at the maſquerade."

Jones had not a ſufficient degree of vanity to entertain any ſuch flattering imagination; nor did Mrs Miller herſelf give much aſſent to what Mr Nightingale had ſaid, till Miſs Nancy, having lifted up the domino, a card dropped from the ſleeve, in which was written as follows:

"To Mr Jones:

"The Queen of the fairies ſends you this;
"Uſe her favours not amiſs."

Mrs Miller and Miſs Nancy now both agreed with Mr Nightingale; nay, Jones himſelf was almoſt perſuaded to be of the ſame opinion; and, as no other lady but Mrs Fitzpatrick, he thought, knew his lodgings, he began to flatter himſelf with ſome hopes that it came from her, and that he might poſſibly ſee his Sophia. Theſe hopes had ſurely very little foundation; but as the conduct of Mrs Fitzpatrick, in not ſeeing him according to her promiſe, and in quitting her lodgings, had been very odd and unaccountable, he conceived ſome faint hopes, that ſhe (of whom he had formerly heard a very whimſical character)

racter) might poſſibly intend to do him that ſervice in a ſtrange manner, which ſhe declined doing by more ordinary methods. To ſay the truth, as nothing certain could be concluded from ſo odd and uncomon an incident, he had the greater latitude to draw what imaginary concluſions from it he pleaſed. As his temper, therefore, was naturally ſanguine, he indulged it on this occaſion, and his imagination worked up a thouſand conceits, to favour and ſupport his expectations of meeting his dear Sophia in the evening.

Reader, if thou haſt any good wiſhes towards me, I will fully repay them, by wiſhing thee to be poſſeſſed of this ſanguine diſpoſition of mind, ſince, after having read much, and conſidered long on that ſubject of happineſs, which hath employed ſo many great pens, I am almoſt inclined to fix it in the poſſeſſion of this temper, which puts us in a manner out of the reach of fortune, and makes us happy without her aſſiſtance. Indeed the ſenſations of pleaſure it gives are much more conſtant, as well as much keener, than thoſe which that blind lady beſtows, nature having wiſely contrived, that ſome ſatiety and languor ſhould be annexed to all our real enjoyments, leſt we ſhould be ſo taken up by them, as to be ſtopped from further purſuits. I make no manner of doubt, but that in this light we may ſee the imaginary future chancellor juſt called to the bar, the archbiſhop in crape, and the prime miniſter at the tail of an oppoſition, more truly happy than thoſe who are inveſted with all the power and profit of thoſe reſpective offices.

Mr Jones having now determined to go to the maſquerade that evening, Mr Nightingale offered to conduct him thither. The young gentleman at the ſame time offered tickets to Miſs Nancy and her mother; but the good woman would not accept them. She ſaid, "She "did not conceive the harm which ſome people imagi- "ned in a maſquerade, but that ſuch extravagant diver- "ſions were proper only for perſons of quality and for- "tune, and not for young women, who were to get their "living, and could at beſt hope to be married to a good "tradeſman.!"——"A tradeſman!" cries Nightingale, "you ſhan't undervalue my Nancy. There is not a no-

"bleman

" bleman upon earth above her merit." " O fie, Mr " Nightingale," anſwered Mrs Miller, " you muſt not " fill the girl's head with ſuch fancies; but, if it were " her good luck," ſays her mother with a ſimper, " to " find a gentleman of your generous way of thinking, I " hope ſhe would make a better return to his generoſi- " ty, than to give her mind up to extravagant pleaſures. " Indeed, where young ladies bring great fortunes them- " ſelves, they have ſome right to inſiſt on ſpending what " is their own; and, on that account, I have heard the " gentlemen ſay, a man has ſometimes a better bargain " with a poor wife than with a rich one.——But let " my daughters marry whom they will, I ſhall endea- " vour to make them bleſſings to their huſbands: I beg, " therefore, I may hear of no more maſquerades. Nan- " cy is, I am certain, too good a girl to deſire to go; " for ſhe muſt remember, when you carried her thither " laſt year, it almoſt turned her head; and ſhe did not " return to herſelf, or to her needle, in a month after- " wards."

Though a gentle ſigh, which ſtole from the boſom of Nancy, ſeemed to argue ſome ſecret diſapprobation of theſe ſentiments, ſhe did not dare openly to oppoſe them: For as this good woman had all the tenderneſs, ſo ſhe had preſerved all the authority of a parent, and as her indulgence to the deſires of her children was reſtrained only by her fears for their ſafety and their future welfare, ſo ſhe never ſuffered thoſe commands, which proceeded from ſuch fears, to be either diſobeyed or diſputed; and this the young gentleman, who had lodged two years in the houſe, knew ſo well, that he preſently acquieſced in the refuſal.

Mr Nightingale, who grew every minute fonder of Jones, was very deſirous of his company that day to dinner at the tavern, where he offered to introduce him to ſome of his acquaintance; but Jones begged to be excuſed, " as his clothes," he ſaid, " were not yet come " to town:"

To confeſs the truth, Mr Jones was now in a ſituation which ſometimes happens to be the caſe of young gentlemen of much better figure than himſelf. In ſhort, he had not one penny in his pocket; a ſituation in much

greater credit among the ancient philoſophers, than among the modern wiſe men who live in Lombard-ſtreet, or thoſe who frequent White's chocolate-houſe: And perhaps the great honours, which thoſe philoſophers have aſcribed to an empty pocket, may be one of the reaſons of that high contempt, in which they are held in the aforeſaid ſtreet and chocolate-houſe.

Now, if the ancient opinion, that men might live very comfortably on virtue only, be, as the modern wiſe men juſt above-mentioned pretend to have diſcovered, a notorious error, no leſs falſe is, I apprehend, that poſition of ſome writers of romance, that a man can live altogether on love; for, however delicious repaſts this may afford to ſome of our ſenſes or appetites, it is moſt certain it can afford none to others. Thoſe, therefore, who have placed too great a confidence in ſuch writers, have experienced their error when it was too late, and have found that love was no more capable of allaying hunger, than a roſe is capable of delighting the ear, or a violin of gratifying the ſmell.

Notwithſtanding, therefore, the delicacies which love had ſet before him, namely, the hopes of ſeeing Sophia at the maſquerade; on which, however ill-founded his imagination might be, he had voluptuouſly feaſted during the whole day, the evening no ſooner came, than Mr Jones began to languiſh for ſome food of a groſſer kind. Partridge diſcovered this by intuition, and took the occaſion to give ſome oblique hints concerning the bank-bill; and when theſe were rejected with diſdain, he collected courage enough once more to mention a return to Mr Allworthy.

"Partridge," cries Jones, "you cannot ſee my fortune "in a more deſperate light than I ſee it myſelf; and "I begin heartily to repent, that I ſuffered you to leave "a place where you was ſettled, and to follow me. "However, I inſiſt now on your returning home; and, "for the expence and trouble which you have ſo kindly "put yourſelf to on my account, all the clothes I left "behind in your care, I deſire you would take as your "own. I am ſorry I can make you no other acknowledgment."

He

He ſpoke theſe words with ſo pathetic an accent, that Partridge, among whoſe vices ill-nature or hardneſs of heart were not numbered, burſt into tears; and after ſwearing he would not quit him in this diſtreſs, he began with the moſt earneſt entreaties to urge his return home. "For Heaven's ſake, Sir," ſays he, "do but conſider: "what can your honour do? How is it poſſible you can "live in this town without money? Do what you will, "Sir, or go where-ever you pleaſe, I am reſolved not to "deſert you.—But pray, Sir, conſider,—do pray, Sir, "for your own ſake, take it into your conſideration; "and I am ſure," ſays he, "that your own good ſenſe "will bid you return home."

"How often ſhall I tell thee," anſwered Jones, "that "I have no home to return to? Had I any hopes that "Mr Allworthy's doors would be open to receive me, I "want no diſtreſs to urge me:—nay, there is no other "cauſe upon earth, which could detain me a moment "from flying to his preſence; but, alas! that I am for "ever baniſhed from. His laſt words were,—O Par-"tridge, they ſtill ring in my ears——His laſt words "were, when he gave me a ſum of money; what it was "I know not, but conſiderable I am ſure it was,——His "laſt words were—"I am reſolved from this day for-"ward, on no account, to converſe with you any "more."

Here paſſion ſtopt the mouth of Jones, as ſurprize, for a moment, did that of Partridge: but he ſoon recovered the uſe of ſpeech, and after a ſhort preface, in which he declared he had no inquiſitiveneſs in his temper, inquired, what Jones meant by a conſiderable ſum; he knew not how much; and what was become of the money.

In both theſe points he now received full ſatisfaction; on which he was proceeding to comment, when he was interrupted by a maſſage from Mr Nightingale, who deſired his maſter's company in his apartment.

When the two gentlemen were both attired for the maſquerade, and Mr Nightingale had given orders for chairs to be ſent for, a circumſtance of diſtreſs occurred to Jones, which will appear very ridiculous to many of

my readers; this was, how to procure a ſhilling; but, if ſuch readers will reflect a little on what they have themſelves felt from the want of a thouſand pounds, or perhaps of ten or twenty to execute a favourite ſcheme, they will have a perfect idea of what Mr Jones felt on this occaſion. For this ſum, therefore, he applied to Partridge, which was the firſt he had permitted him to advance, and was the laſt he intended the poor fellow ſhould advance in his ſervice. To ſay the truth, Partridge had lately made no offer of this kind; whether it was that he deſired to ſee the bank-bill broke in upon, or that diſtreſs would prevail upon Jones to return home, or from what other motive it proceeded, I will not determine.

CHAP. VII.

Containing the whole humours of a Maſquerade.

OUR cavaliers now arrived at that temple, where Heydegger, the great *arbiter deliciarum*, the great high-prieſt of pleaſure preſides; and, like other heathen prieſts, impoſes on his votaries by the pretended preſence of the deity, when in reality no ſuch deity is there.

Mr Nightingale, having taken a turn or two with his companion, ſoon left him, and walked off with a female, ſaying, "Now you are here, Sir, you muſt beat about "for your own game."

Jones began to entertain ſtrong hopes that his Sophia was preſent; and theſe hopes gave him more ſpirits than the lights, the muſic, and the company; though theſe are pretty ſtrong antidotes againſt the ſpleen. He now accoſted every woman he ſaw, whoſe ſtature, ſhape, or air, bore any reſemblance to his angel: To all of whom he endeavoured to ſay ſomething ſmart, in order to engage an anſwer, by which he might diſcover that voice which he thought it impoſſible he ſhould miſtake. Some of theſe anſwered, by a queſtion, in a ſqueaking voice, Do you know me? Much the greater numbers ſaid, I don't know you, Sir; and nothing more. Some called him an impertinent fellow; ſome made him no anſwer at

at all; ſome ſaid, Indeed I don't know your voice, and I ſhall have nothing to ſay to you; and many gave him as kind anſwers as he could wiſh, but not in the voice he deſired to hear.

Whilſt he was talking with one of theſe laſt, (who was in the habit of a ſhepherdeſs,) a lady in a domino came up to him, and ſlapping him on the ſhoulder, whiſpered him at the ſame time in the ear, "If you talk "any longer with that trollop, I will acquaint Miſs "Weſtern."

Jones no ſooner heard that name, than, immediately quitting his former companion, he applied to the domino, begging and entreating her to ſhew him the lady ſhe had mentioned, if ſhe was then in the room.

The maſk walked haſtily to the upper end of the innermoſt apartment before ſhe ſpoke; and then inſtead of anſwering him, ſat down and declared ſhe was tired. Jones ſat down by her, and ſtill perſiſted in his entreaties; at laſt the lady coldly anſwered, "I imagined Mr "Jones had been a more diſcerning lover, than to ſuffer "any diſguiſe to conceal his miſtreſs from him." "Is "ſhe here, then Madam?" replied Jones, with ſome vehemence: Upon which the lady cried,—"Huſh, Sir, you "will be obſerved.—I promiſe you upon my honour, "Miſs Weſtern is not here."

Jones now taking the maſk by the hand, fell to entreating her, in the moſt earneſt manner, to acquaint him where he might find Sophia, and, when he could obtain no direct anſwer, he began to upbraid her gently for having diſappointed him the day before; and concluded, ſaying, "Indeed, my good fairy queen, I know "your Majeſty very well, notwithſtanding the affected "diſguiſe of your voice. Indeed, Mrs Fitzpatrick, it is "a little cruel to divert yourſelf at the expence of my "torments."

The maſk anſwered, "though you have ſo ingeniouſly "diſcovered me, I muſt ſtill ſpeak in the ſame voice, "leſt I ſhould be known by others. And do you think, "good Sir, that I have no greater regard for my couſin, "than to aſſiſt in carrying on an affair between you two "which muſt end in her ruin as well as your own? "Beſides, I promiſe you, my couſin is not mad enough

"to

"to conſent to her own deſtruction, if you are ſo much "her enemy as to tempt her to it."

"Alas, Madam," ſaid Jones, "you little know my "heart, when you call me an enemy of Sophia."

"And yet to ruin any one," cries the other, "you "will allow, is the act of an enemy; and, when by "the ſame act you muſt knowingly and certainly bring "ruin on yourſelf, is it not folly or madneſs, as well as "guilt? Now, Sir, my couſin hath very little more "than her father will pleaſe to give her; very little for "one of her faſhion;—you know him, and you know "your own ſituation."

Jones vowed he had no ſuch deſigns on Sophia: "That he would rather ſuffer the moſt violent of deaths, "than ſacrifice her intereſt to his deſires. He ſaid, he "knew how unworthy he was of her every way; that "he had long ago reſolved to quit all ſuch aſpiring "thoughts, but that ſome ſtrange accidents had made "him deſirous to ſee her once more, when he promiſed "he would take leave of her for ever. No, Madam," concluded he, "my love is not of that kind, which ſeeks "its own ſatisfaction, at the expence of what is moſt "dear to its object. I would ſacrifice every thing to "the poſſeſſion of my Sophia, but Sophia herſelf."

Though the reader may have already conceived no very ſublime idea of the virtue of the lady in the maſk; and though poſſibly ſhe may hereafter appear not to deſerve one of the firſt characters of her ſex; yet, it is certain, theſe generous ſentiments made a ſtrong impreſſion upon her, and greatly added to the affection ſhe had before conceived for our young hero.

The lady now, after a ſilence of a few moments, ſaid, "She did not ſee his pretenſions to Sophia ſo much in "the light of preſumption, as of imprudence. Young "fellows," ſays ſhe, "can never have too aſpiring "thoughts. I love ambition in a young man, and I "would have you cultivate it as much as poſſible. Per"haps you may ſucceed with thoſe who are infinitely ſu"perior in fortune; nay, I am convinced there are wo"men——But don't you think me a ſtrange creature, "Mr Jones, to be thus giving advice to a man, with "whom

" whom I am ſo little acquainted, and one with whoſe " behaviour to me I have ſo little reaſon to be pleaſed?"

Here Jones began to apologize, and to hope he had not offended in any thing he had ſaid of her couſin.—— To which the maſk anſwered, " And are you ſo little " verſed in the ſex, to imagine you can well affront a la- " dy more, than by entertaining her with your paſſion for " another woman? If the fairy queen had conceived no " better opinion of your gallantry, ſhe would ſcarce have " appointed you to meet her at a maſquerade."

Jones had never leſs inclination to an amour than at preſent; but gallantry to the ladies was among his principles of honour; and he held it as much incumbent on him to accept a challenge to love, as if it had been a challenge to fight. Nay, his very love to Sophia made it neceſſary for him to keep well with the lady, as he made no doubt but ſhe was capable of bringing him into the preſence of the other.

He began therefore to make a very warm anſwer to her laſt ſpeech, when a maſk, in the character of an old woman, joined them. This maſk was one of thoſe ladies who go to a maſquerade only to vent ill-nature, by telling people rude truths, and by endeavouring, as the phraſe is, to ſpoil as much ſport as they are able. This good lady, therefore, having obſerved Jones, and his friend, whom ſhe well knew, in cloſe conſultation together in a corner of the room, concluded ſhe could no where ſatisfy her ſpleen better than by interrupting them. She attacked them, therefore, and ſoon drove them from their retirement; nor was ſhe contented with this, but purſued them to every place which they ſhifted to avoid her; till Mr Nightingale ſeeing the diſtreſs of his friend, at laſt relieved him, and engaged the old woman in another purſuit.

While Jones and his maſk were walking together about the room, to rid themſelves of the teaſer, he obſerved the lady ſpeak to ſeveral maſks, with the freedom of acquaintance, as if they had been barefaced. He could not help expreſſing his ſurprize at this, ſaying, " Sure, " Madam, you muſt have infinite diſcernment to know " people in all diſguiſes." To which the lady anſwered, " You cannot conceive any thing more inſipid and child-

" iſh

"iſh than a maſquerade to people of faſhion, who "in general know one another as well here, as when "they meet in an aſſembly or a drawing-room; nor "will any woman of condition converſe with a per-"ſon with whom ſhe is not acquainted. In ſhort, "the generality of perſons whom you ſee here, may more "properly be ſaid to kill time in this place than in any "other, and generally retire from hence more tired "than from the longeſt ſermon. To ſay the truth, I "begin to be in that ſituation myſelf; and if I have any "faculty at gueſſing, you are not much better pleaſed. I "proteſt it would be almoſt charity in me to go home "for your ſake." "I know but one charity equal to "it," cries Jones, "and that is to ſuffer me to wait "on you home." "Sure," anſwered the lady, "you "have a ſtrange opinion of me, to imagine that, upon "ſuch an acquaintance, I would let you into my doors "at this time o'night. I fancy you impute the friend-"ſhip I have ſhewn my couſin, to ſome other motive. "Confeſs honeſtly; don't you conſider this contrived in-"terview as little better than a downright aſſignation? "Are you uſed, Mr Jones, to make theſe ſudden con-"queſts?" "I am not uſed, Madam," ſaid Jones, "to ſubmit to ſuch ſudden conqueſts; but as you have "taken my heart by ſurpriſe, the reſt of my body has "a right to follow; ſo you muſt pardon me if I reſolve "to attend you wherever you go." He accompanied theſe words with ſome proper actions; upon which the lady, after a gentle rebuke, and ſaying their familiarity would be obſerved, told him, "She was going to ſup "with an acquaintance, whither ſhe hoped he would "not follow her; for if you ſhould," ſaid ſhe, "I ſhall "be thought an unaccountable creature, though my "friend indeed is not cenſorious, yet I hope you won't "follow me; I proteſt I ſhall not know what to ſay, if "you do."

The lady preſently after quitted the maſquerade, and Jones, notwithſtanding the ſevere prohibition he had received preſumed to attend her. He was now reduced to the ſame dilemma we have mentioned before, namely, the want of a ſhilling, and could not relieve it by borrowing as before. He therefore walked boldly on after the chair in which

which his lady rode, purſued by a grand huzza, from all the chairmen preſent, who wiſely take the beſt care they can to diſcountenance all walking a-foot by their betters. Luckily, however, the gentry who attend at the opera-houſe were too buſy to quit their ſtations, and as the lateneſs of the hour prevented him from meeting many of their brethren in the ſtreet, he proceeded without moleſtation, in a dreſs, which, at another ſeaſon, would have certainly raiſed a mob at his heels.

The lady was ſet down in a ſtreet, not far from Hanover-ſquare, where the door being preſently opened, ſhe was carried in; and the gentleman, without any ceremony, walked in after her.

Jones and his companion were now together in a well-furniſhed and well-warmed room, when the female, ſtill ſpeaking in her maſquerade voice, ſaid, ſhe was ſurpriſed at her friend, who muſt abſolutely have forgot her appointment; at which, after venting much reſentment, ſhe ſuddenly expreſt ſome apprehenſion from Jones, and aſked him what the world would think of their having been alone together in a houſe at that time of the night? But inſtead of a direct anſwer to ſo important a queſtion, Jones began to be very importunate with the lady to unmaſk; and at length having prevailed, there appeared,—not Mrs Fitzpatrick, but the Lady Bellaſton herſelf.

It would be tedious to give the particular converſation, which conſiſted of very common and ordinary occurrences, and which laſted from two till ſix o'clock in the morning. It is ſufficient to mention all of it that is any-wiſe material to this hiſtory. And this was a promiſe that the lady would endeavour to find out Sophia, and in a few days bring him to an interview with her, on condition that he would then take his leave of her. When this was thoroughly ſettled, and a ſecond meeting in the evening appointed at the ſame place, they ſeparated; the lady returned to her houſe, and Jones to his lodgings.

CHAP. VIII.

Containing a ſcene of diſtreſs, which will appear very extraordinary to moſt of our Readers.

JONES, having refreſhed himſelf with a few hours ſleep, ſummoned Partridge to his preſence; and delivering him a bank-note of fifty pounds, ordered him to go and change it. Partridge received this with ſparkling eyes, though when he came to reflect farther, it raiſed in him ſome ſuſpicions not very advantageous to the honour of his maſter: to theſe the dreadful idea he had of the maſquerade, the diſguiſe in which his maſter had gone out and returned, and his having been abroad all night, contributed. In plain language, the only way he could poſſibly find to account for the poſſeſſion of this note was by robbery: and, to confeſs the truth, the reader, unleſs he ſhould ſuſpect it was owing to the generoſity of Lady Bellaſton, can hardly imagine any other.

To clear therefore the honour of Mr Jones, and to do juſtice to the liberality of the lady, he had really received this preſent from her, who, though ſhe did not give much into the hackney charities of the age, ſuch as building hoſpitals, &c. was not, however, entirely void of that chriſtian virtue, and conceived, (very rightly I think,) that a young fellow of merit, without a ſhilling in the world, was no improper object of this virtue.

Mr Jones and Mr Nightingale had been invited to dine this day with Mrs Miller. At the appointed hour therefore the two young gentlemen, with the two girls, attended in the parlour, where they waited from three till almoſt five before the good woman appeared. She had been out of town to viſit a relation, of whom, at her return, ſhe gave the following account:

"I hope, gentlemen, you will pardon my making "you wait; I am ſure if you knew the occaſion.—I "have been to ſee a couſin of mine, about ſix miles "off, who now lies in.—It ſhould be a warning to all "perſons (ſays ſhe, looking at her daughters,) how they

"marry

" marry indiſcreetly. There is no happineſs in this " world without a competency. O Nancy! how ſhall " I deſcribe the wretched condition in which I found " your poor couſin; ſhe hath ſcarce lain in a week, and " there was ſhe, this dreadful weather, in a cold room, " without any curtains to her bed, and not a buſhel of " coals in her houſe to ſupply her with fire; her ſecond " ſon, that ſweet little fellow, lies ill of a quinzy in the " ſame bed with his mother; for there is no other bed " in the houſe. Poor little Tommy! I believe, Nancy, " you will never ſee your favourite any more; for he is " really very ill. The reſt of the children are in pret- " ty good health; but Molly, I am afraid, will do her- " ſelf an injury: ſhe is but thirteen years old, Mr Night- " ingale, and yet in my life I never ſaw a better nurſe: " ſhe tends both her mother and her brother; and, what " is wonderful in a creature ſo young, ſhe ſhews all the " cheerfulneſs in the world to her mother; and yet I ſaw " her—I ſaw the poor child, Mr Nightingale, turn a- " bout, and privately wipe the tears from her eyes." Here Mrs Miller was prevented by her own tears from going on, and there was not, I believe, a perſon preſent who did not accompany her in them; at length ſhe a little recovered herſelf, and proceeded thus: " In all this " diſtreſs the mother ſupports her ſpirits in a ſurpriſing " manner. The danger of her ſon ſits heavieſt upon " her, and yet ſhe endeavours as much as poſſible to " conceal even this concern, on her huſband's account. " Her grief, however, ſometimes gets the better of all " her endeavours; for ſhe was always extravagantly fond " of this boy, and a moſt ſenſible, ſweet-tempered crea- " ture it is. I proteſt I was never more affected in my " life, than when I heard the little innocent, who is hard- " ly yet ſeven years old, while his mother was wetting " him with her tears, beg her to be comforted.—" In- " deed mamma," cried the child, " I ſhan't die; God " Almighty, I am ſure, won't take Tommy away; let " heaven be ever ſo fine a place, I had rather ſtay here, " and ſtarve with you and my pappa, than go to it."— " Pardon me, gentlemen, I can't help it," ſays ſhe, wip- ing her eyes, " ſuch ſenſibility and affection in a child— " And yet perhaps he is leaſt the object of pity; for a

" day or two will perhaps place him beyond the reach " of all human evils. The father is indeed moſt wor- " thy of compaſſion. Poor man! his countenance is " the very picture of horror, and he looks rather like " one dead than alive. Oh heavens! what a ſcene did " I behold at my firſt coming into the room! The " good creature was lying behind the bolſter, ſupport- " ing at once both his child and his wife. He had no- " thing on but a thin waiſtcoat; for his coat was ſpread " over the bed to ſupply the want of blankets.—When " he roſe up at my entrance, I ſcarce knew him: As " comely a man, Mr Jones, within this fortnight, as you " ever beheld; Mr Nightingale hath ſeen him: his eyes " ſunk, his face pale, with a long beard; his body " ſhivering with cold, and worn with hunger too; for " my couſin ſays, ſhe can hardly prevail upon him to " eat.—He told me himſelf in a whiſper; he told me— " I can't repeat it——he ſaid, he could not bear to eat " the bread his children wanted. And yet, (can you " believe it, gentlemen?) in all this miſery, his wife has as " good caudle, as if ſhe lay in in the midſt of the great- " eſt affluence; I taſted it, and I ſcarce ever taſted bet- " ter.—The means of procuring her this, he ſaid, he " believed was ſent him by an angel from heaven. I " know not what he meant; for I had not ſpirits enough " to aſk a ſingle queſtion.

" This was a love match, as they call it, on both " ſides; that is, a match between two beggars. I muſt " indeed ſay, I never ſaw a fonder couple; but what is " their fondneſs good for but to torment each other?" " Indeed, mamma," cries Nancy, " I have always look- " ed on my couſin Anderſon," (for that was her name,) " as one of the happieſt of women." " I am ſure," ſays Mrs Miller, " the caſe at preſent is much otherwiſe; " for any one might have diſcerned, that the tender " conſideration of each other's ſufferings makes the " moſt intolerable part of their calamity, both to the " huſband and the wife: Compared to which, hunger " and cold, as they affect their own perſons only, are " ſcarce evils. Nay, the very children, the youngeſt, " which is not two years old, excepted, feel in the ſame " manner; for they are a moſt loving family, and, if

" they

" they had but a bare competency, would be the hap-
" pieſt people in the world." " I never ſaw the leaſt
" ſign of miſery at her houſe," replied Nancy; " I am
" ſure my heart bleeds for what you now tell me."—
" O child," anſwered the mother, " ſhe hath always
" endeavoured to make the beſt of every thing. They
" have always been in great diſtreſs; but indeed this ab-
" ſolute ruin hath been brought upon them by others.
" The poor man was bail for the villain his brother;
" and about a week ago, the very day before her lying
" in, their goods were all carried away, and ſold by an
" execution. He ſent a letter to me of it by one of the
" bailiffs, which the villain never delivered.—What muſt
" he think of my ſuffering a week to paſs before he
" heard of me?"

It was not with dry eyes that Jones heard this narrative; when it was ended, he took Mrs Miller apart with him into another room, and, delivering her his purſe, in which was the ſum of 50 l. deſired her to ſend as much of it as ſhe thought proper to theſe poor people. The look which Mrs Miller gave Jones on this occaſion is not eaſy to be deſcribed. She burſt into a kind of agony of tranſport, and cried out,——" Good Heavens! is
" there ſuch a man in the world?"——But recollecting herſelf, ſhe ſaid, " Indeed I know one ſuch; but can
" there be another?" " I hope, Madam," cries Jones,
" there are many who have common humanity; for to
" relieve ſuch diſtreſſes in our fellow-creatures can hard-
" ly be called more." Mrs Miller then took ten guineas, which were the utmoſt he could prevail with her to accept, and ſaid, " She would find ſome means of convey-
" ing them early the next morning," adding, " that ſhe
" had herſelf done ſome little matter for the poor peo-
" ple, and had not left them in quite ſo much miſery
" as ſhe found them."

They then returned to the parlour, where Nightingale expreſſed much concern at the dreadful ſituation of theſe wretches, whom indeed he knew; for he had ſeen them more than once at Mrs Miller's. He inveighed againſt the folly of making one's ſelf liable for the debts of others, vented many bitter execrations againſt the brother, and concluded with wiſhing ſomething could be done for the

" unfortunate

unfortunate family. "Suppoſe, Madam," ſaid he, "you "ſhould recommend them to Mr Allworthy? or what "think you of a collection? I will give them a guinea "with all my heart."

Mrs Miller made no anſwer; and Nancy, to whom her mother had whiſpered the generoſity of Jones, turned pale upon the occaſion; though, if either of them was angry with Nightingale, it was ſurely without reaſon; for the liberality of Jones, if he had known it, was not an example which he had any obligation to follow; and there are thouſands who would not have contributed a ſingle halfpenny; as indeed he did not in effect, for he made no tender of any thing, and therefore as the others thought proper to make no demand, he kept his money in his pocket.

I have in truth obſerved, and ſhall never have a better opportunity than at preſent to communicate my obſervation, that the world are in general divided into two opinions concerning charity, which are the very reverſe of each other. One party ſeems to hold, that all acts of this kind are to be eſteemed as voluntary gifts, and however little you give, (if indeed no more than your good wiſhes,) you acquire a great degree of merit in ſo doing. Others, on the contrary, appear to be as firmly perſuaded, that beneficence is a poſitive duty, and that, whenever the rich fall greatly ſhort of their ability in relieving the diſtreſſes of the poor, their pitiful largeſſes are ſo far from being meritorious, that they have only performed their duty by halves, and are in ſome ſenſe more contemptible than thoſe who have entirely neglected it.

To reconcile theſe different opinions is not in my power. I ſhall only add, that the givers are generally of the former ſentiment, and the receivers are almoſt univerſally inclined to the latter.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

Which treats of matters of a very different kind from thoſe in the preceding chapter.

IN the evening Jones met his lady again, and a long converſation again enſued between them; but, as it conſiſted only of the ſame ordinary occurrences as before, we ſhall avoid mentioning particulars, which we deſpair of rendering agreeable to the reader, unleſs he is one whoſe devotion to the fair ſex, like that of the papiſts to their ſaints, wants to be raiſed by the help of pictures. But I am ſo far from deſiring to exhibit ſuch pictures to the public, that I would wiſh to draw a curtain over thoſe that have been lately ſet forth in certain French novels; very bungling copies of which have been preſented us here, under the name of tranſlations.

Jones grew ſtill more and more impatient to ſee Sophia; and finding, after repeated interviews with lady Bellaſton, no likelihood of obtaining this by her means, (for on the contrary, the lady began to treat even the mention of the name of Sophia with reſentment,) he reſolved to try ſome other method. He made no doubt but that lady Bellaſton knew where his angel was, ſo he thought it moſt likely, that ſome of her ſervants ſhould be acquainted with the ſame ſecret. Partridge therefore was employed to get acquainted with thoſe ſervants, in order to fiſh this ſecret out of them.

Few ſituations can be imagined more uneaſy, than that to which his poor maſter was at preſent reduced; for, beſides the difficulties he had met with in diſcovering Sophia, the fears he had of having diſobliged her, and the aſſurances he had received from lady Bellaſton of the reſolution which Sophia had taken againſt him, and of her having purpoſely concealed herſelf from him, which he had ſufficient reaſon to believe might be true, he had ſtill a difficulty to combat, which was not in the power of his miſtreſs to remove, however kind her inclination might have been. This was the expoſing of her to be diſinherited of all her father's eſtate, the almoſt inevitable

vitable conſequence of their coming together without a conſent, which he had no hopes of ever obtaining.

Add to all theſe the many obligations which lady Bellaſton, whoſe violent fondneſs we can no longer conceal, had heaped upon him; ſo that by her means he was now become one of the beſt dreſs'd men about town, and was not only relieved from thoſe ridiculous diſtreſſes we have before mentioned, but was actually raiſed to a ſtate of affluence, beyond what he had ever known.

Now though there are many gentlemen, who very well reconcile it to their conſciences to poſſeſs themſelves of the whole fortune of a woman, without making her any kind of return, yet, to a mind the proprietor of which doth not deſerve to be hang'd, nothing is, I believe, more irkſome, than to ſupport love with gratitude only, eſpecially where inclination pulls the heart a contrary way. Such was the unhappy caſe of Jones; for, though the virtuous love he bore to Sophia, and which left very little affection for any other woman, had been entirely out of the queſtion, he could never have been able to make an adequate return to the generous paſſion of this lady, who had indeed been once an object of deſire, but was now entered at leaſt into the autumn of life, though ſhe wore all the gaiety of youth both in her dreſs and manner; nay, ſhe contrived ſtill to maintain the roſes in her cheeks; but theſe, like flowers forced out of ſeaſon by art, had none of that lively blooming freſhneſs with which nature, at the proper time, bedecks her own productions. She had beſides a certain imperfection, which renders ſome flowers, though very beautiful to the eye, very improper to be placed in a wilderneſs of ſweets, and what above all others is moſt diſagreeable to the breath of love.

Though Jones ſaw all theſe diſcouragements on the one ſide, he felt his obligations full as ſtrongly on the other; nor did he leſs plainly diſcern the ardent paſſion whence thoſe obligations proceeded, the extreme violence of which, if he had failed to equal, he well knew the lady would think him ungrateful; and, what is worſe, he would have thought himſelf ſo. He knew the tacit conſideration upon which all her favours were conferred,

and,

and, as his neceſſity obliged him to accept them, ſo his honour, he concluded, forced him to pay the price. This therefore, he reſolved to do, whatever miſery it coſt him, and to devote himſelf to her, from that great principle of juſtice, by which the laws of ſome countries oblige a debtor, who is no otherwiſe capable of diſcharging his debt, to become the ſlave of his creditor.

While he was meditating on theſe matters, he received the following note from the lady.

"A very fooliſh, but a very perverſe accident, hath "happened ſince our laſt meeting, which makes it im- "proper I ſhould ſee you any more at the uſual place. "I will, if poſſible, contrive ſome other place by to-mor- "row. In the mean time adieu."

This diſappointment perhaps the reader may conclude was not very great; but, if it was, he was quickly relieved; for, in leſs than an hour afterwards, another note was brought him from the ſame hand, which contained as follows.

"I have altered my mind ſince I wrote, a change "which, if you are no ſtranger to the tendereſt of all "paſſions, you will not wonder at. I am now reſolved "to ſee you this evening at my own houſe, whatever "may be the conſequence. Come to me exactly at "ſeven; I dine abroad, but will be at home by that time. "A day, I find, to thoſe that ſincerely love, ſeems "longer than I imagined.

"If you ſhould accidentally be a few moments be- "fore me, bid them ſhew you into the drawing-room."

To confeſs the truth, Jones was leſs pleaſed with this laſt epiſtle, than he had been with the former, as he was prevented by it from complying with the earneſt entreaties of Mr Nightingale, with whom he had now contracted much intimacy and friendſhip. Theſe entreaties were to go with that young gentleman and his company to a new play, which was to be acted that evening, and which a very large party had agreed to damn, from ſome diſ-

like they had taken to the author, who was a friend to Mr Nightingale's acquaintance. And this ſort of fun our hero, we are aſhamed to confeſs, would willingly have preferred to the above kind appointment; but his honour got the better of his inclination.

Before we attend him to this intended interview with the lady, we think proper to account for both the preceding notes, as the reader may poſſibly be not a little ſurprized at the imprudence of lady Bellaſton in bringing her lover to the very houſe where her rival was lodged.

Firſt then, the miſtreſs of the houſe where theſe lovers had hitherto met, and who had been for ſome years a penſioner to that lady, was now become a methodiſt, and had that very morning waited upon her ladyſhip, and, after rebuking her very ſeverely for her paſt life, had poſitively declared, that ſhe would, on no account, be inſtrumental in carrying on any of her affairs for the future.

The hurry of ſpirits into which this accident threw the lady, made her deſpair of poſſibly finding any other convenience to meet Jones that evening; but as ſhe began a little to recover from her uneaſineſs at the diſappointment, ſhe ſet her thoughts to work, when luckily it came into her head to propoſe to Sophia to go to the play, which was immediately conſented to, and a proper lady provided for her companion. Mrs Honour was likewiſe diſpatched with Mrs Etoff on the ſame errand of pleaſure; and thus her own houſe was left free for the ſafe reception of Mr Jones, with whom ſhe promiſed herſelf two or three hours of uninterrupted converſation, after her return from the place where ſhe dined, which was at a friend's houſe in a pretty diſtant part of the town, near her old place of aſſignation, where ſhe had engaged herſelf before ſhe was well apprized of the revolution that had happened in the mind and morals of her late confidante.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

A Chapter, which, though ſhort, may draw tears from ſome eyes.

MR Jones was juſt dreſſed to wait on Lady Bellaſton, when Mrs Miller rapped at his door; and, being admitted, very earneſtly deſired his company below ſtairs to drink tea in the parlour.

Upon his entrance into the room, ſhe preſently introduced a perſon to him, ſaying, "This, Sir, is my "couſin, who hath been ſo greatly beholden to your "goodneſs, for which he begs to return you his ſince-"reſt thanks."

The man had ſcarce entered upon that ſpeech which Mrs Miller had ſo kindly prefaced, when both Jones and he, looking ſtedfaſtly at each other, ſhewed at once the utmoſt tokens of ſurpriſe. The voice of the latter began inſtantly to faulter: and, inſtead of finiſhing his ſpeech, he ſunk down into a chair, crying, "It is ſo; I "am convinced it is ſo!"

"Bleſs me, what's the meaning of this," cries Mrs Miller; "you are not ill, I hope couſin? Some water; "a dram this inſtant."

"Be not frighted, Madam," cries Jones; "I have "almoſt as much need of a dram as your couſin. We "are equally ſurpriſed at this unexpected meeting. "Your couſin is an acquaintance of mine, Mrs Mil-"ler."

"An acquaintance!" cries the man.——"O Hea-"ven!"

"Ay an acquaintance," repeated Jones, "and an "honoured acquaintance too. When I do not love and "honour the man who dares venture every thing to pre-"ſerve his wife and his children from inſtant deſtruction, "may I have a friend capable of diſowning me in ad-"verſity."

"O you are an excellent young man," cries Mrs Miller;—"yes, indeed, poor creature! he hath ventured "every thing; if he had not had one of the beſt "conſtitutions, it muſt have killed him."

"Couſin," cries the man, "who had now pretty "well recovered himſelf: this is the angel from heaven "whom I meant. This is he to whom, before I ſaw "you, I owed the preſervation of my Peggy. He it was "to whoſe generoſity every comfort, every ſupport, "which I have procured for her, was owing. He is in-"deed the worthieſt, braveſt, nobleſt of all human "beings. O couſin, I have obligations to this gentle-"man of ſuch a nature!——

"Mention nothing of obligations," cries Jones eager-"ly; "not a word: I inſiſt upon it, not a word;" (meaning, I ſuppoſe, that he would not have him betray the affair of the robbery to any perſon)—"If, by "the trifle you have received from me, I have preſerv-"ed a whole family, ſure pleaſure was never bought ſo "cheap."

"O, Sir," cries the man, "I wiſh you could this "inſtant ſee my houſe. If any perſon had ever a right "to the pleaſure you mention, I am convinced it is your-"ſelf. My couſin tells me, ſhe acquainted you with the "diſtreſs in which ſhe found us. That, Sir, is all great-"ly removed, and chiefly by your goodneſs.———My "children have now a bed to lie on,——and they have "——they have—eternal bleſſings reward you for it—— "they have bread to eat. My little boy is recovered; "my wife is out of danger, and I am happy. All, all "owing to you, Sir, and to my couſin here, one of the "beſt of women. Indeed, Sir, I muſt ſee you at my "houſe.—Indeed my wife muſt ſee you, and thank you. "—My children too muſt expreſs their gratitude.—— "Indeed, Sir, they are not without a ſenſe of their obli-"gation; but what is my feeling when I reflect to whom "I owe, that they are now capable of expreſſing their "gratitude.———O, Sir! the little hearts which you "have warmed had now been cold as ice without your "aſſiſtance"———

Here Jones attempted to prevent the poor man from proceeding; but indeed the overflowing of his own heart would of itſelf have ſtopped his words. And now Mrs Miller likewiſe began to pour forth thankſgivings, as well in her own name as in that of her couſin, and concluded with

with ſaying, "ſhe doubted not but ſuch goodneſs would "meet a glorious reward."

Jones anſwered, "He had been ſufficiently reward-"ed already. Your couſin's account, Madam," ſaid he, "hath given me a ſenſation more pleaſing than I "have ever known. He muſt be a wretch who is un-"moved at hearing ſuch a ſtory; how tranſporting then "muſt be the thought of having happily acted a part in "this ſcene! If there are men who cannot feel the de-"light of giving happineſs to others, I ſincerely pity "them, as they are incapable of taſting what is, in my "opinion, a greater honour, a higher intereſt, and a "ſweeter pleaſure, than the ambitious, the avaritious, or "the voluptuous man can ever obtain."

The hour of appointment being now come, Jones was forced to take a haſty leave, but not before he had heartily ſhaken his friend by the hand, and deſired to ſee him again as ſoon as poſſible, promiſing, that he would himſelf take the firſt opportunity of viſiting him at his own houſe. He then ſtept into his chair, and proceeded to Lady Bellaſton's, greatly exulting in the happineſs which he had procured to this poor family; nor could he forbear reflecting without horror on the dreadful conſequences, which muſt have attended them, had he liſtened rather to the voice of ſtrict juſtice than to that of mercy, when he was attacked on the high road.

Mrs Miller ſung forth the praiſes of Jones during the whole evening, in which Mr Anderſon, while he ſtayed, ſo paſſionately accompanied her, that he was often on the very point of mentioning the circumſtances of the robbery. However, he luckily recollected himſelf, and avoided an indiſcretion, which would have been ſo much the greater, as he knew Mrs Miller to be extremely ſtrict and nice in her principles. He was likewiſe well apprized of the loquacity of this lady; and yet ſuch was his gratitude, that it had almoſt got the better both of diſcretion and ſhame, and made him publiſh that which would have defamed his own character, rather than omit any circumſtances which might do the fulleſt honour to his benefactor.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

In which the Reader will be ſurpriſed.

MR Jones was rather earlier than the time appointed, and earlier than the lady, whoſe arrival was hindered not only by the diſtance of the place where ſhe dined, but by ſome other croſs accidents, very vexatious to one in her ſituation of mind. He was accordingly ſhewn into the drawing-room, where he had not been many minutes before the door opened, and in came——no other than Sophia herſelf, who had left the play before the end of the firſt act; for this, as we have already ſaid, being a new play, at which two large parties met, the one to damn, and the other to applaud, a violent uproar, and an engagement between the two parties, had ſo terrified our heroine, that ſhe was glad to put herſelf under the protection of a young gentleman, who ſafely conveyed her to her chair.

As Lady Bellaſton had acquainted her that ſhe ſhould not be at home till late, Sophia, expecting to find no one in the room, came haſtily in, and went directly to a glaſs which almoſt fronted her, without once looking towards the upper end of the room, where the ſtatue of Jones now ſtood motionleſs.———In this glaſs it was, after contemplating her own lovely face, that ſhe firſt diſcovered the ſaid ſtatue; when, inſtantly turning about, ſhe perceived the reality of the viſion; upon which ſhe gave a violent ſcream, and ſcarce preſerved herſelf from fainting, till Jones was able to move to her and ſupport her in his arms.

To paint the looks or thoughts of either of theſe lovers is beyond my power. As their ſenſations, from their mutual ſilence, may be judged to have been too big for their own utterance, it cannot be ſuppoſed, that I ſhould be able to expreſs them; and the misfortune is, that few of my readers have been enough in love to feel by their own hearts what paſt at this time in theirs.

After a ſhort pauſe, Jones with faultering accents ſaid, ——"I ſee, Madam, you are ſurpriſed."——"Surpriſ-

"ed

" ed !" anſwered ſhe ; " Oh heavens ! Indeed I am ſur-
" priſed. I almoſt doubt whether you are the perſon
" you ſeem." " Indeed," cries he, " my Sophia, (par-
" don, me Madam, for this once calling you ſo,) I am that
" very wretched Jones, whom fortune, after ſo many diſ-
" appointments, hath at laſt kindly conducted to you.
" Oh ! my Sophia, did you know the thouſand torments
" I have ſuffered in this long fruitleſs purſuit"——
" Purſuit of whom," ſaid Sophia, a little recollecting her-
ſelf, and aſſuming a reſerved air.——" Can you be ſo
" cruel to aſk that queſtion ?" cries Jones : " Need I
" ſay of you ?" " Of me !" anſwered Sophia : " Hath
" Mr Jones then any ſuch important buſineſs with me ?
" To ſome, Madam," cries Jones, this might ſeem an im-
" portant buſineſs," (giving her the pocket-book) " I
" hope, Madam, you will find it of the ſame value, as
" when it was loſt." Sophia took the pocket-book, and
was going to ſpeak, when he interrupted her thus ;——
" Let us not, I beſeech you loſe one of thoſe precious
" moments which fortune hath ſo kindly ſent us.—O
" my Sophia, I have buſineſs of a much ſuperiour kind.
" ——Thus, on my knees, let me aſk your pardon."
———" My pardon," cries ſhe ;———" Sure, Sir,
" after what is paſt you cannot expect, after
" what I have heard"———" I ſcarce know what I
" ſay," anſwered Jones, " By heavens ! I ſcarce wiſh
" you ſhould pardon me. O my Sophia, henceforth
" never caſt away a thought on ſuch a wretch as I am.
" If any remembrance of me ſhould ever intrude to give
" a moment's uneaſineſs to that tender boſom, think of
" my unworthineſs ; and let the remembrance of what
" paſt at Upton blot me for ever from your mind."——
Sophia ſtood trembling all this while. Her face was
whiter than ſnow, and her heart was throbbing through
her ſtays. But, at the mention of Upton, a bluſh aroſe
in her cheeks, and her eyes, which before ſhe had ſcarce
lifted up, were turned upon Jones with a glance of diſ-
dain. He underſtood this ſilent reproach, and replied
to it thus : " O my Sophia, my only love, you cannot
" hate or deſpiſe me more for what happened there,
" than I do myſelf : but yet do me the juſtice to think,
" that my heart was never unfaithful to you. That had
" no ſhare in the folly I was guilty of ; it was even then

" unalterably

" unalterably yours. Though I deſpaired of poſſeſſing " you, nay almoſt of ever ſeeing you more, I doated ſtill " on your charming idea, and could ſeriouſly love no " other woman. But if my heart had not been engag- " ed, ſhe, into whoſe company I accidentally fell at that " curſed place, was not an object of ſerious love. Be- " lieve me, my angel, I never have ſeen her from that " day to this, and never intend, or deſire, to ſee her " again." Sophia in her heart was very glad to hear this; but forcing into her face an air of more coldneſs than ſhe had yet aſſumed, " Why," ſaid ſhe, " Mr " Jones, do you take the trouble to make a defence, " where you are not accuſed? If I thought it worth " while to accuſe you, I have a charge of an unpardon- " ble nature indeed." " What is that, for Heaven's ſake?" anſwered Jones, trembling and pale, expecting to hear of his amour with Lady Bellaſton. " Oh," ſaid ſhe, " how " is it poſſible? can every thing noble, and every thing " baſe, be lodged together in the ſame boſom?" Lady Bellaſton, and the ignominious circumſtance of having been kept, roſe again in his mind, and ſtopt his mouth from any reply. " Could I have expected," proceeded " Sophia, ſuch treatment from you, nay, from any gentle- " man, from any man of honour? To have my name " traduced in public, in inns among the meaneſt vulgar! " to have any little favours, that my unguarded heart " may have too lightly betrayed me to grant, boaſted " of there! nay even to hear, that you had been forced " to fly from my love?"

Nothing could equal Jones's ſurpriſe at theſe words of Sophia; but yet, not being guilty, he was much leſs embarraſſed how to defend himſelf, than if ſhe had touched that tender ſtring, at which his conſcience had been alarmed. By ſome examination he preſently found, that her ſuppoſing him guilty of ſo ſhocking an outrage againſt his love, and her reputation, was entirely owing to Partridge's talk at the inns before the landlords and ſervants; for Sophia confeſſed to him, it was from them that ſhe received her intelligence. He had no very great difficulty to make her believe, that he was entirely innocent of an offence ſo foreign to his character: but ſhe had a great deal to hinder him from going inſtantly home,

home, and putting Partridge to death, which he more than once ſwore he would do. This point being cleared up, they ſoon found themſelves ſo well pleaſed with each other, that Jones quite forgot he had begun the converſation with conjuring her to give up all thoughts of him; and ſhe was in a temper to have given ear to a petition of a very different nature; for, before they were aware, they had both gone ſo far, that he let fall ſome words that ſounded like a propoſal of marriage; to which ſhe replied, "That, did not her duty to her father forbid "her to follow her own inclinations, ruin with him "would be more welcome to her, than the moſt affluent "fortune with another man." At the mention of the word *ruin* he ſtarted, let drop her hand, which he held for ſome time, and ſtriking his breaſt with his own, cried out, "Oh, Sophia, can I then ruin thee? No; by hea-"vens, no! I never will act ſo baſe a part. Deareſt "Sophia, whatever it coſts me, I will renounce you; "I will give you up; I will tear all ſuch hopes from my "heart, as are inconſiſtent with your real good. My "love I will ever retain, but it ſhall be in ſilence; it "ſhall be at a diſtance from you; in ſome fo-"reign, land from whence no voice, no ſigh of "my deſpair, ſhall every reach and diſturb your ears: "And when I am dead"——He would have gone on, but was ſtopt by a flood of tears which Sophia let fall in his boſom, upon which ſhe leaned, without being able to ſpeak one word. He kiſſed them off, which for ſome time ſhe allowed him to do without any reſiſtance; but then recollecting herſelf, gently withdrew out of his arms; and, to turn the diſcourſe from a ſubject too tender, and which ſhe found ſhe could not ſupport, bethought herſelf to aſk him a queſtion ſhe never had time to put to him before, "How he came into that room?" He began to ſtammer, and would in all probability have raiſed her ſuſpicions by the anſwer he was going to give, when at once the door opened, and in came Lady Bellaſton.

Having advanced a few ſteps, and ſeeing Jones and Sophia together, ſhe ſuddenly ſtopt; when, after a pauſe of a few moments, recollecting herſelf, with admirable preſence of mind, ſhe ſaid,—though with ſufficient indi-

cations of ſurpriſe both in voice and countenance—" I thought, Miſs Weſtern, you had been at the play!"

Though Sophia had no opportunity of learning of Jones by what means he had diſcovered her, yet as ſhe had not the leaſt ſuſpicion of the real truth, or that Jones and Lady Bellaſton were acquainted, ſo ſhe was very little confounded; and the leſs, as the lady had, in all their converſations upon the ſubject, entirely taken her ſide againſt her father. With very little heſitation, therefore, ſhe went through the whole ſtory of what had happened at the play houſe, and the cauſe of her haſty return.

The length of this narrative gave Lady Bellaſton an opportunity of rallying her ſpirits, and of conſidering in what manner to act. And as the behaviour of Sophia gave her hopes that Jones had not betrayed her, ſhe put on an air of good humour, and ſaid, "I ſhould not have broke in ſo abruptly upon you, Miſs Weſtern, if I had known you had company."

Lady Bellaſton fixed her eyes on Sophia, whilſt ſhe ſpoke theſe words. To which that poor young lady, having her face overſpread with bluſhes and confuſion, anſwered in a ſtammering voice, "I am ſure, Madam, I "ſhall always think the honour of your ladyſhip's com-"pany"———"I hope at leaſt," cries Lady Bellaſton, "I interrupt no buſineſs."——"No, Madam," anſwered Sophia, "our buſineſs was at an end. Your Lady-"ſhip may be pleaſed to remember, I have often men-"tioned the loſs of my pocket-book, which this gentle-"man having very luckily found, was ſo kind to return "it to me, with the bill in it."

Jones, ever ſince the arrival of Lady Bellaſton, had been ready to ſink with fear. He ſat kicking his heels, playing with his fingers, and looking more like a fool, if it be poſſible, than a young booby 'ſquire, when he is firſt introduced into a polite aſſembly. He began, however, now to recover himſelf; and taking a hint from the behaviour of Lady Bellaſton, who he ſaw did not intend to claim any acquaintance with him, he reſolved as entirely to affect the ſtranger on his part. He ſaid, "Ever "ſince he had the pocket-book in his poſſeſſion, he had "uſed great diligence in inquiring out the lady whoſe

"name

V. 3 p. 50.

Rowlandson inv.t et fec.

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name was writ in it, but never till that day could he
to fortunate as to discover her."

Sophia had indeed mentioned the loss of her pocket-
book to Lady Bellaston; but as Jones, for some reason
or other, had never once hinted to her that it was in his
possession, he believed not one syllable of what Sophia
now told, and wonderfully admired the extreme quick-
ness of the young lady in inventing such an excuse. The
reason of Sophia's leaving the play-house met with no
better credit, though the real, not account for
the meeting between these two lovers, he was truly per-
suaded it was not accidental.

With an affected levity, therefore, she said — "Indeed,
Mrs. Western, you had very good luck in recovering
your pocket-book, not only as it fell into the hands
of a gentleman of honour, but as it happened to be
one to whom it was strictly — It was great good for-
tune, Sir, that you found out to whom the note be-
longed."

"O, Madam," cried Jones, "it was indeed a
pocket-book, in which the young lady's name was
written."

"That was very fortunate indeed," cries the la-
dy; — "and it was no less so that you heard Mrs.
Western was at my house, for she is very little
known."

Jones had at length perfectly recovered his spirit;
and as he had conceived he had now an opportunity of
resolving Sophia as to the question she had asked him
but before Lady Bellaston came in, he proceeded thus:
"Why, Madam," answered he, "it was by the luck-
est chance imaginable I made the discovery. I was
returning what I had found, and the name of the
owner, the other night, to a lady at the masquerade,
who told me, she believed she knew where I might fee
Mrs. Western, and if I would come to her house the
next morning she would inform me. I went accord-
ingly to her appointment, but she was not at home; for
could I ever meet with her till this morning, when
she directed me to your ladyship's house. I came ac-
cordingly, and did myself the honour to ask for your
ladyship's

" name was writ in it, but never till that day could be " ſo fortunate as to diſcover her."

Sophia had indeed mentioned the loſs of her pocket-book to Lady Bellaſton; but as Jones, for ſome reaſon or other, had never once hinted to her that it was in his poſſeſſions, he believed not one ſyllable of what Sophia now ſaid, and wonderfully admired the extreme quickneſs of the young lady in inventing ſuch an excuſe. The reaſon of Sophia's leaving the play-houſe met with no better credit; and though ſhe could not account for the meeting between theſe two lovers, ſhe was firmly perſuaded it was not accidental.

With an affected ſmile, therefore, ſhe ſaid—" Indeed, " Miſs Weſtern, you have had very good luck in reco- " vering your money; not only as it fell into the hands " of a gentleman of honour, but as he happened to diſ- " cover to whom it belonged. I think you would not " conſent to have it advertiſed. It was great good for- " tune, Sir, that you found out to whom the note be- " longed."

" O, Madam," cries Jones, " it was incloſed in a " pocket-book, in which the young lady's name was " written."

" That was very fortunate indeed," cries the lady:—" and it was no leſs ſo that you heard Miſs " Weſtern was at my houſe, for ſhe is very little " known,"

Jones had at length perfectly recovered his ſpirits; and as he had conceived he had now an opportunity of ſatisfying Sophia as to the queſtion ſhe had aſked him juſt before Lady Bellaſton came in, he proceeded thus: " Why, Madam," anſwered he, " it was by the lucki- " eſt chance imaginable I made this diſcovery. I was " mentioning what I had found, and the name of the " owner, the other night, to a lady at the maſquerade, " who told me, ſhe believed ſhe knew where I might ſee " Miſs Weſtern, and if I would come to her houſe the " next morning ſhe would inform me. I went accord- " ing to her appointment, but ſhe was not at home; nor " could I ever meet with her till this morning, when " ſhe directed me to your ladyſhip's houſe. I came ac- " cordingly, and did myſelf the honour to aſk for your

" ladyſhip; and upon my ſaying that I had very parti-
" cular buſineſs, a ſervant ſhewed me into this room,
" where I had not been long before the young lady re-
" turned from the play."

Upon his mentioning the maſquerade, he looked very ſlily at Lady Bellaſton, without any fear of being remarked by Sophia; for ſhe was viſibly too much confounded to make any obſervations. This hint a little alarmed the lady, and ſhe was ſilent; when Jones, who ſaw the agitations of Sophia's mind, reſolved to take the only method of relieving her, which was by retiring; but before he did this, he ſaid, " I believe, Madam, it is cuſtomary
" to give ſome reward on theſe occaſions;—I muſt inſiſt
" on a very high one for my honeſty;—it is, Madam, no
" leſs than the honour of being permitted to pay another
" viſit here."

" Sir," replied the lady, " I make no doubt that you
" are a gentleman, and my doors are never ſhut to peo-
" ple of faſhion."

Jones then, after proper ceremonials, departed, highly to his own ſatisfaction, and no leſs to that of Sophia; who was terribly alarmed leſt Lady Bellaſton ſhould diſcover what ſhe knew already but too well.

Upon the ſtairs Jones met his old acquaintance Mrs Honour, who, notwithſtanding all ſhe had ſaid againſt him, was now ſo well-bred as to behave with great civility. This meeting indeed proved a lucky circumſtance, as he communicated to her the houſe where he lodged, with which Sophia was unacquainted.

CHAP. XII.

In which the thirteenth Book is concluded.

THE elegant Lord Shafteſbury ſomewhere objects to telling too much truth; by which it may be fairly inferred, that, in ſome caſes, to lie, is not only excuſable, but commendable.

And ſurely there are no perſons who may ſo properly challenge a right to this commendable deviation from truth, as young women in the affair of love; for which they

they may plead precept, education, and above all, the ſanction, nay, I may ſay, the neceſſity of cuſtom, by which they are reſtrained, not from ſubmitting to the honeſt impulſes of nature (for that would be a fooliſh prohibition,) but from owning them.

We are not, therefore, aſhamed to ſay, that our heroine now purſued the dictates of the above-mentioned right honourable philoſopher. As ſhe was perfectly ſatisfied then, that Lady Bellaſton was ignorant of the perſon of Jones, ſo ſhe determined to keep her in that ignorance, though at the expence of a little fibbing.

Jones had not been long gone, before Lady Bellaſton cry'd, "Upon my word, a good pretty young fellow; "I wonder who he is; for I don't remember ever to "have ſeen his face before."

"Nor I neither, Madam," cries Sophia; "I muſt ſay "he behaved very handſomely in relation to my note."

"Yes; and he is a very handſome fellow," ſaid the lady: "don't you think ſo?"

"I did not take much notice of him," anſwered Sophia, "but I thought he ſeemed rather aukward and "ungenteel than otherwiſe."

"You are extremely right," cries Lady Bellaſton: "you may ſee by his manner, that he hath not kept "good company. Nay, notwithſtanding his returning "your note, and refuſing the reward, I almoſt queſtion "whether he is a gentleman.—I have always obſerved "there is a ſomething in perſons well-born, which others "can never acquire.——I think I will give orders not "to be at home to him."

"Nay, ſure, Madam," anſwered Sophia, "one can't "ſuſpect after what he hath done;——beſides, if your "ladyſhip obſerved him, there was an elegance in his "diſcourſe, a delicacy, a prettineſs of expreſſion, that, "that——'.

"I confeſs," ſaid Lady Bellaſton, "the fellow hath "words——And indeed Sophia, you muſt forgive me; "indeed you muſt."

"I forgive your ladyſhip!" ſaid Sophia.

"Yes indeed you muſt," anſwered ſhe laughing; "for "I had a horrible ſuſpicion when I firſt came into the

"room

" room——I vow you muſt forgive it; but I ſuſpected " it was Mr Jones himſelf."

" Did your ladyſhip indeed?" cries Sophia, bluſhing, and affecting a laugh.

" Yes, I vow I did," anſwered ſhe; " I can't ima- " gine what put it into my head; for, give the fellow " his due, he was genteelly dreſt, which I think, dear " Sophy, is not commonly the caſe with your friend."

" This raillery," cries Sophia, " is a little cruel, lady " Bellaſton, after my promiſe to your ladyſhip."

" Not at all, child!" ſaid the lady.——" It would " have been cruel before; but, after you promiſed me " never to marry without your father's conſent, in which " you know is implied your giving up Jones, ſure you " can bear a little raillery on a paſſion, which was par- " donable enough in a young girl in the country and " of which you tell me you have ſo entirely got the " better. What muſt I think, my dear Sophy, if you " cannot bear a little ridicule even on his dreſs? I ſhall " begin to fear you are very far gone indeed; and al- " moſt queſtion whether you have dealt ingenuouſly " with me."

" Indeed Madam," cries Sophia, " your ladyſhip miſ- " takes me, if you imagine I had any concern on his " account."

" On his account!" anſwered the lady: " You muſt " have miſtaken me; I went no farther than his dreſs; " ——for I would not injure your taſte by any other " compariſon—I don't imagine, my dear Sophy, if your " Mr Jones had been ſuch a fellow as this——"

" I thought," ſays Sophia, " your ladyſhip had allow- " ed him to be handſome."——

" Whom, pray?" cried the lady haſtily.

" Mr Jones," anſwered Sophia;—and immediately recollecting herſelf, " Mr Jones!——no, no; I aſk your " pardon;—I mean the gentleman who was juſt now " here."

" O Sophy! Sophy!" cries the lady; " this Mr Jones, " I am afraid, ſtill runs in your head."

" Then upon my honour, madam," ſaid Sophia, Mr " Jones is as entirely indifferent to me as the gentleman " who juſt now left us."

" Upon

"Upon my honour," ſaid lady Bellaſton, "I believe "it. Forgive me, therefore, a little innocent raillery; "but I promiſe you I will never mention his name any "more."

And now the two ladies ſeparated, infinitely more to the delight of Sophia than of Lady Bellaſton, who would willingly have tormented her rival a little longer, had not buſineſs of more importance called her away. As for Sophia, her mind was not perfectly eaſy under this firſt practice of deceit: upon which, when ſhe retired to her chamber, ſhe reflected with the higheſt uneaſineſs and conſcious ſhame. Nor could the peculiar hardſhip of her ſituation, and the neceſſity of the caſe, at all reconcile her mind to her conduct; for the frame of her mind was too delicate to bear the thought of having been guilty of a falſehood, however qualified by circumſtances. Nor did this thought once ſuffer her to cloſe her eyes during the whole ſucceeding night.

THE

THE

HISTORY

OF A

FOUNDLING.

BOOK XIV.

CONTAINING TWO DAYS.

CHAP. I.

An Eſſay to prove that an Author will write the better for having ſome knowledge of the ſubject on which he writes.

AS ſeveral gentlemen in theſe times, by the wonderful force of genius only, without the leaſt aſſiſtance of learning, perhaps without being well able to read, have made a conſiderable figure in the republic of letters; the modern critics, I am told, have lately begun to aſſert, that all kinds of learning are entirely uſeleſs to a writer; and, indeed, no other than a kind of fetters on the natural ſprightlineſs and activity of the imagination, which is thus weighed down, and prevented from ſoaring to thoſe high flights which otherwiſe it would be able to reach.

This doctrine, I am afraid, is at preſent carried much too far: for why ſhould writing differ ſo much from all other arts? The nimbleneſs of a dancing-maſter is not at all prejudiced by being taught to move; nor doth any mechanic, I believe, exerciſe his tools the worſe by having learnt

learnt to uſe them. For my own part, I cannot conceive that Homer or Virgil would have writ with more fire, if, inſtead of being maſters of all the learning of their times, they had been as ignorant as moſt of the Authors of the preſent age. Nor do I believe that all the imagination, fire, and judgment of Pitt, could have produced thoſe orations that have made the ſenate of England in theſe our times a rival in eloquence of Greece and Rome, if he had not been ſo well read in the writings of Demoſthenes and Cicero, as to have transferred their whole ſpirit into his ſpeeches, and with their ſpirit their knowledge too.

I would not here be underſtood to inſiſt on the ſame fund of learning in any of my brethren, as Cicero perſuades us is neceſſary to the compoſition of an orator. On the contrary, very little reading is, I conceive, neceſſary to the poet, leſs to the critic, and the leaſt of all to the politician. For the firſt, perhaps, Byſhe's Art of Poetry, and a few of our modern poets, may ſuffice; for the ſecond, a moderate heap of plays; and for the laſt, an indifferent collection of political journals.

To ſay the truth, I require no more than that a man ſhould have ſome little knowledge of the ſubject on which he treats, according to the old maxim of law, *Quam quiſque norit artem in ea ſe exerceat.* With this alone a writer may ſometimes do tolerably well; and indeed without this, all the other learning in the world will ſtand him in little ſtead.

For inſtance, let us ſuppoſe that Homer and Virgil, Ariſtotle and Cicero, Thucydides and Livy, could have met altogether, and have clubbed their ſeveral talents to have compoſed a treatiſe on the art of dancing; I believe it will be readily agreed they could not have equalled the excellent treatiſe which Mr Eſſex hath given us on that ſubject, entitled, The Rudiments of genteel Education. And, indeed, ſhould the excellent Mr Broughton be prevailed on to ſet fiſt to paper, and to compleat the aboveſaid rudiments, by delivering down the true principles of Athletics, I queſtion whether the world will have any cauſe to lament, that none of the great writers, either ancient or modern, have ever treated about that noble and uſeful art.

To avoid a multiplicity of examples in ſo plain a caſe, and to come at once to my point, I am apt to conceive, that one reaſon why many Engliſh writers have totally failed in deſcribing the manners of upper life, may poſſibly be, that in reality they know nothing of it.

This is a knowledge unhappily not in the power of many Authors to arrive at. Books will give us a very imperfect idea of it; nor will the ſtage a much better; the fine gentleman formed upon reading the former, will almoſt always turn out a pedant, and he who forms himſelf upon the latter, a coxcomb.

Nor are the characters drawn from theſe models better ſupported. Vanburgh and Congreve copied nature; but they who copy them draw as unlike the preſent age, as Hogarth would do if he was to paint a rout or a drum in the dreſſes of Titian and of Vandyke. In ſhort, imitation here will not do the buſineſs. The picture muſt be after nature herſelf. A true knowledge of the world is gained only by converſation, and the manners of every rank muſt be ſeen in order to be known.

Now it happens that this higher order of mortals is not to be ſeen, like all the reſt of the human-ſpecies, for nothing, in the ſtreets, ſhops, and coffee-houſes; nor are they ſhewn like the upper rank of animals, for ſo much a-piece. In ſhort, this is a ſight to which no perſons are admitted, without one or other of theſe qualifications, viz. either birth or fortune; or, what is equivalent to both, the honourable profeſſion of a gameſter. And, very unluckily for the world, perſons ſo qualified very ſeldom care to take upon themſelves the bad trade of writing; which is generally entered upon by the lower and poorer ſort, as it is a trade which many think requires no kind of ſtock to ſet up with.

Hence thoſe ſtrange monſters in lace and embroidery, in ſilks and brocades, with vaſt wigs and hoops; which, under the name of lords and ladies, ſtrut the ſtage, to the great delight of attornies clerks in the pit, and of the citizens and their apprentices in the galleries; and which are no more to be found in real life, than the centaur, the chimera, or any other creature of mere fiction. But, to let my reader into a ſecret, this knowledge of upper life, though very neceſſary for preventing miſ-

takes,

takes, is no very great reſource to a writer, whoſe province is comedy, or that kind of novels, which, like this I am writing, is of the comic claſs.

What Mr Pope ſays of women is very applicable to moſt in this ſtation, who are indeed ſo entirely made up of form and affectation, that they have no character at all, at leaſt none which appears. I will venture to ſay, the higheſt life is much the dulleſt, and affords very little humour or entertainment. The various callings in lower ſpheres produce the great variety of humorous characters; whereas here, except among the few who are engaged in the purſuit of ambition, and the fewer ſtill who have a reliſh for pleaſure, all is vanity and ſervile imitation. Dreſſing and cards, eating and drinking, bowing and curtſying, make up the buſineſs of their lives.

Some there are, however of this rank, upon whom paſſion exerciſes its tyranny, and hurries them far beyond the bounds which decorum preſcribes; of theſe, the ladies are as much diſtinguiſhed by their noble intrepidity, and a certain ſuperior contempt of reputation, from the frail ones of meaner degree, as a virtuous woman of quality is, by the elegance and delicacy of her ſentiments, from the honeſt wife of a yeoman or ſhopkeeper. Lady Bellaſton was of this intrepid character; but let not my country readers conclude from her, that this is the general conduct of women of faſhion, or that we mean to repreſent them as ſuch. They might as well ſuppoſe, that every clergyman was repreſented by Thwackum, or every ſoldier by enſign Northerton.

There is not indeed a greater error than that which univerſally prevails among the vulgar, who, borrowing their opinion from ſome ignorant ſatyriſts, have affixed the character of lewdneſs to theſe times. On the contrary, I am convinced there never was leſs love intrigue carried on among perſons of condition, than now. Our preſent women have been taught by their mothers to fix their thoughts only on ambition and vanity, and to deſpiſe the pleaſures of love as unworthy their regard; and, being afterwards by the care of ſuch mothers married without having huſbands, they ſeem pretty well con-

ſirmed in the juſtneſs of thoſe ſentiments; whence they content themſelves, for the dull remainder of life, with the purſuit of more innocent, but, I am afraid, more childiſh amuſements, the bare mention of which would ill ſuit with the dignity of this hiſtory. In my humble opinion, the true characteriſtic of the preſent beau monde is rather folly than vice, and the only epithet which it deſerves is that of frivolous.

CHAP. II.

Containing letters and other matters which attend amours.

JONES had not long been at home before he received the following letter:

"I was never more ſurpriſed than when I found you "was gone. When you left the room, I little imagined "you intended to have left the houſe without ſeeing me "again. Your behaviour is all of a piece, and convin- "ces me how much I ought to deſpiſe a heart which "can doat upon an idiot; though I know not whether "I ſhould not admire her cunning more than her ſim- "plicity: wonderful both! for though ſhe underſtood "not a word of what paſſed between us, ſhe yet had "the ſkill, the aſſurance, the——what ſhall I call it? "to deny to my face, that ſhe knows you, or ever ſaw "you before———was this a ſcheme laid between "you, and have you been baſe enough to betray me?— "O how I deſpiſe her, you, and all the world, but chief- "ly myſelf! for——I dare not write what I ſhould af- "terwards run mad to read; but remember, I can de- "teſt as violently as I have loved."

Jones had but little time given him to reflect on this letter, before a ſecond was brought him from the ſame hand; and this likewiſe we ſhall ſet down in the preciſe words:

"When you conſider the hurry of ſpirits in which I "muſt have writ, you cannot be ſurpriſed at any expreſ- "ſions in my former note.——Yet, perhaps, on re-

"flection,

" flection, they were rather too warm; at leaſt I would,
" if poſſible, think all owing to the odious play-houſe,
" and to the impertinence of a fool, which detained me
" beyond my appointment. How eaſy is it to think well
" of thoſe we love?—Perhaps you deſire I ſhould think
" ſo. I have reſolved to ſee you to-night, ſo come to
" me immediately.

" *P. S.* I have ordered to be at home to none but
" yourſelf.

" *P. S.* Mr Jones will imagine I ſhall aſſiſt him in
" his defence; for I believe, he cannot deſire to im-
" poſe on me more than I deſire to impoſe on my-
" ſelf.

" *P. S.* Come immediately.

To the men of intrigue I refer the determination, whether the angry or the tender letter gave the greateſt uneaſineſs to Jones. Certain it is, he had no violent inclination to pay any more viſits that evening, unleſs to one ſingle perſon. However, he thought his honour engaged, and, had not this been motive ſufficient, he would not have ventured to blow the temper of lady Bellaſton into that flame of which he had reaſon to think it ſuſceptible, and of which he feared the conſequence might be a diſcovery to Sophia, which he dreaded. After ſome diſcontented walks, therefore, about the room, he was preparing to depart, when the lady kindly prevented him, not by another letter, but by her own preſence. She entered the room very diſordered in her dreſs, and very diſcompoſed in her looks, and threw herſelf into a chair, where having recovered her breath, ſhe ſaid—— " You ſee, Sir, when women have gone one length too " far, they will ſtop at none. If any perſon would have " ſworn this to me a week ago, I would not have believ-" ed it of myſelf." " I hope Madam," ſaid Jones, " my " charming lady Bellaſton will be as difficult to believe " any thing againſt one who is ſo ſenſible of the many " obligations ſhe has conferred upon him." " Indeed!" ſays ſhe, " ſenſible of obligations! Did I expect to hear

" ſuch

" ſuch cold language from Mr Jones?" " Pardon me, " my dear angel," ſaid he, " if, after the letters I have " received, the terrors of your anger, though I know " not how I have deſerved it."——" And have I then," ſays ſhe, with a ſmile, " ſo angry a countenance?—— " Have I really brought a chiding face with me?—— " If there be honour in man," ſaid he, " I have done " nothing to merit your anger.———You remember " the appointment you ſent me:——I went in purſu- " ance"——" I beſeech you," cried ſhe, " do not run " through the odious recital.——Anſwer me but one " queſtion, and I ſhall be eaſy.——Have you not be- " trayed my honour to her?"———Jones fell upon his knees, and began to utter the moſt violent proteſta- tions, when Partridge came dancing and capering into the room, like one drunk with joy, crying out, " She's found, " ſhe's found!"——" Here, Sir, here, ſhe's here.—— " Mrs Honour is upon the ſtairs." " Stop her a mo- " ment," cries Jones.——" Here, Madam, ſtep behind " the bed: I have no other room, nor cloſet, nor place " on earth to hide you in; ſure never was ſo damn'd an " accident."———" D—n'd indeed!" ſaid the lady, as ſhe went to her place of concealment; and preſently afterwards in came Mrs Honour. " Hey-day!" ſays ſhe, " Mr Jones, what's the matter?——That impudent " raſcal, your ſervant, would ſcarce let me come up " ſtairs. I hope he hath not the ſame reaſon to keep " me from you as he had at Upton.———I ſuppoſe " you hardly expected to ſee me; but you have certain- " ly bewitched my lady. Poor dear young lady! To be " ſure, I loves her as tenderly as if ſhe was my own ſiſ- " ter. Lord have mercy upon you, if you don't make " her a good huſband; and to be ſure, if you do not, " nothing can be bad enough for you." Jones begged her only to whiſper, " for that there was a lady dying " in the next room." " A lady!" cries ſhe;" " ay, I " ſuppoſe one of your ladies.——O, Mr Jones, there are " too many of them in the world! I believe we are " got into the houſe of one; for my lady Bellaſton, I " dares to ſay, is no better than ſhe ſhould be."——— " Huſh, huſh," cries Jones, every word is overheard in " the

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" the next room." " I don't care a farthing," cries Ho-
" nour, " I ſpeaks no ſcandal of any one; but to be
" ſure, the ſervants make no ſcruple of ſaying as how
" her ladyſhip meets men at another place———where
" the houſe goes under the name of a poor gentlewoman;
" but her ladyſhip pays the rent, and many the good
" thing beſides, they ſay, ſhe hath of her."——Here Jones, after expreſſing the utmoſt uneaſineſs, offered to ſtop her mouth.——" Hey-day! why ſure Mr Jones you
" will let me ſpeak; I ſpeaks no ſcandal, for I only ſays
" what I heard from others;——and thinks I to my-
" ſelf, much good may it do the gentlewoman with her
" riches, if ſhe comes by it in ſuch a wicked manner—
" To be ſure it is better to be poor and honeſt." The
" ſervants are villains:" cries Jones, " and abuſe their
" lady unjuſtly."——" Ay to be ſure, ſervants are al-
" ways villains; and ſo my lady ſays, and won't hear a
" word of it?"——" No, I am convinced," ſays Jones,
" my Sophia is above liſtening to ſuch baſe ſcandal."
" Nay, I believe, it is no ſcandal neither," cries Honour,
" for why ſhould ſhe meet men at another houſe?——
" It can never be for any good; for, if ſhe had a law-
" ful deſign of being courted, as to be ſure any lady may
" lawfully give her company to men upon that account,
" why where can be the ſenſe"—" I proteſt," cries Jones, " I can't hear all this of a lady of ſuch honour,
" and a relation of Sophia; beſides you will diſtract the
" poor lady in the next room.——Let me entreat you
" to walk with me down ſtairs."———" Nay, Sir, if
" you won't let me ſpeak, I have done.——Here, Sir,
" is a letter from my young lady:——What would
" ſome men give to have this? But, Mr Jones, I think,
" you are not over and above generous, and yet I have
" heard ſome ſervants ſay———But I am ſure you will
" do me the juſtice to own I never ſaw the colour of
" your money." Here Jones haſtily took the letter, and preſently after ſlipped five pieces into her hand. He then returned a thouſand thanks to his dear Sophia in a whiſper, and begged her to leave him to read her letter: She preſently departed, not without expreſſing much grateful ſenſe of his generoſity.

Lady

Lady Bellaſton now came from behind the curtain. How ſhall I deſcribe her rage? Her tongue was at firſt incapable of utterance; but ſtreams of fire darted from her eyes; and well indeed they might, for her heart was all in a flame. And now, as ſoon as her voice found way, inſtead of expreſſing any indignation againſt Honour, or her own ſervants, ſhe began to attack poor Jones. "You ſee," ſaid ſhe, "what I have ſacrificed "to you; my reputation, my honour,——gone for ever! "And what return have I found? Neglected, ſlighted for "a country girl, for an idiot." "What neglect, Madam, "or what ſlight," cries Jones, "have I been guilty of?— "Mr Jones," ſaid ſhe, "it is in vain to diſſemble; if "you will make me eaſy, you muſt entirely give her up; "and, as a proof of your intention, ſhew me the letter." "What letter, Madam?" ſaid Jones. "Nay, ſurely," ſaid ſhe, "you cannot have the confidence to deny your "having received a letter by the hands of that trollop." "And can your ladyſhip," cries he, "aſk of me what I "muſt part with my honour before I grant? Have I "acted in ſuch a manner by your ladyſhip? Could I be "guilty of betraying this poor innocent girl to you, "what ſecurity could you have, that I ſhould not act "the ſame part by yourſelf? A moment's reflection will, "I am ſure, convince you, that a man, with whom the "ſecrets of a lady are not ſafe, muſt be the moſt con- "temptible of wretches." "Very well," ſaid ſhe,—— "I need not inſiſt on your becoming this contemptible "wretch in your own opinion; for the inſide of the let- "ter could inform me of nothing more than I know al- "ready, I ſee the footing you are upon."——Here en- ſued a long converſation, which the reader, who is not too curious, will thank me for not inſerting at length. It ſhall ſuffice therefore to inform him, that lady Bellaſton grew more and more pacified, and at length believed, or affected to believe, his proteſtations, that his meeting with Sophia that evening was merely accidental, and every other matter which the reader already knows, and which, as Jones ſet before her in the ſtrongeſt light, it is plain that ſhe had in reality no reaſon to be angry with him.

She

She was not, however, in her heart, perfectly ſatisfied with his refuſal to ſhew her the letter; ſo deaf are we to the cleareſt reaſon, when it argues againſt our prevailing paſſions. She was indeed well convinced that Sophia poſſeſſed the firſt place in Jones's affections; and yet haughty and amorous as this lady was, ſhe ſubmitted at laſt to bear the ſecond place, or, to expreſs it more properly in a legal phraſe, was contented with the poſſeſſion of that of which another woman had the reverſion.

It was at length agreed, that Jones ſhould for the future viſit at the houſe; for that Sophia, her maid, and all the ſervants would place theſe viſits to the account of Sophia, and that ſhe herſelf would be conſidered as the perſon impoſed upon.

This ſcheme was contrived by the lady, and highly reliſhed by Jones, who was indeed glad to have a proſpect of ſeeing his Sophia at any rate; and the lady herſelf was not a little pleaſed with the impoſition on Sophia, which Jones, ſhe thought, could not poſſibly diſcover to her for his own ſake.

The next day was appointed for the firſt viſit, and then, after proper ceremonials, the lady Bellaſton returned home.

CHAP. III.

Containing various matters.

JONES was no ſooner alone, than he eagerly broke open his letter, and read as follows:

" Sir, It is impoſſible to expreſs what I have ſuffered " ſince you left this houſe; and, as I have reaſon to " think you intend coming here again, I have ſent Ho- " nour, though ſo late at night, as ſhe tells me ſhe knows " your lodgings, to prevent you. I charge you, by all " the regard you have for me, not to think of viſiting " here; for it will certainly be diſcovered; nay, I almoſt " doubt, from ſome things which have dropt from her " ladyſhip, that ſhe is not already without ſome ſuſpicion. " Something favourable, perhaps, may happen: we muſt " wait with patience; but I once more intreat you, if

" you have any concern for my eaſe, do not think of " returning hither."

This letter adminiſtered the ſame kind of conſolation to poor Jones, which Job formerly received from his friends. Beſides diſappointing all the hopes which he promiſed to himſelf from ſeeing Sophia, he was reduced to an unhappy dilemma, with regard to lady Bellaſton; for there are ſome certain engagements, which, as he well knew, do very difficultly admit of any excuſe for the failure; and to go, after the ſtrict prohibition from Sophia, he was not to be forced by any human power. At length, after much deliberation, which, during that night, ſupplied the place of ſleep, he determined to feign himſelf ſick; for this ſuggeſted itſelf as the only means of failing the appointed viſit, without incenſing lady Bellaſton, which he had more than one reaſon of deſiring to avoid.

The firſt thing, however, which he did in the morning, was to write an anſwer to Sophia, which he incloſed in one to Honour. He then diſpatched another to lady Bellaſton, containing the above-mentioned excuſe, and to this he ſoon received the following anſwer:

" I am vexed that I cannot ſee you here this after- " noon, but more concerned for the occaſion; take great " care of yourſelf, and have the beſt advice, and I hope " there will be no danger.—I am ſo tormented all this " morning with fools, that I have ſcarce a moment's " time to write you. Adieu.

" *P. S.* I will endeavour to call on you this evening " at nine.—Be ſure to be alone.

Mr Jones now received a viſit from Mrs Miller, who, after ſome formal introduction, began the following ſpeech: " I am very ſorry, Sir, to wait upon you on " ſuch an occaſion; but I hope you will conſider the ill " conſequence which it muſt be to the reputation of my " poor girls, if my houſe ſhould once be talked of as a " houſe of ill fame. I hope you won't think me there- " fore guilty of impertinence, if I beg you not to bring

" any

" any more ladies in at that time of night. The clock had " ſtruck two before one of them went away." " I do " aſſure you, Madam," ſaid Jones, " the lady who was " here laſt night, and who ſtaid the lateſt, (for the other " only brought me a letter), is a woman of very great " faſhion, and my near relation." " I don't know what " faſhion ſhe is of," anſwered Mrs Miller, " but I am " ſure no woman of virtue, unleſs a very near relation in- " deed, would viſit a young gentleman at ten at night, " and ſtay four hours in his room with him alone: be- " ſides, Sir, the behaviour of her chairmen ſhews what " ſhe was; for they did nothing but make jeſts all the " evening in the entry, and aſked Mr Partridge, in the " hearing of my own maid, if Madam intended to ſtay " with his maſter all night; with a great deal of ſtuff " not proper to be repeated. I have really a great reſ- " pect for you, Mr Jones, upon your own account; nay, " I have a very high obligation to you for your generoſi- " ty to my couſin. Indeed I did not know how very " good you had been till lately. Little did I imagine to " what dreadful courſes the poor man's diſtreſs had " driven him. Little did I think, when you gave me " the ten guineas, that you had given them to a high- " wayman! O heavens! What goodneſs have you " ſhewn! How you have preſerved this family!——The " character which Mr Allworthy hath formerly given " me of you, was, I find, ſtrictly true.—And indeed, if I " had no obligation to you, my obligations to him are " ſuch, that on his account I ſhould ſhew you the ut- " moſt reſpect in my power.—Nay, believe me, dear Mr " Jones, if my daughters and my own reputation were " out of the caſe, I ſhould for your own ſake be ſorry, " that ſo pretty a young gentleman ſhould converſe with " theſe women; but if you are reſolved to do it, I muſt " beg you to take another lodging; for I do not myſelf " like to have ſuch things carried on under my roof, but " more eſpecially upon the account of my girls, who " have little, heaven knows, beſides their characters, to " recommend them." Jones ſtarted, and changed colour at the name of Allworthy. " Indeed, Mrs Miller," an- ſwered he a little warmly, " I do not take this at all

"kind. I will never bring any ſlander on your houſe; "but I muſt inſiſt on ſeeing what company I pleaſe in "my own room; and, if that gives you any offence, I "ſhall, as ſoon as I am able, look for another lodging." "I am ſorry we muſt part then, Sir," ſaid ſhe, "but I "am convinced Mr Allworthy himſelf would never come "within my doors, if he had the leaſt ſuſpicion of my "keeping an ill houſe."——"Very well, Madam," ſaid Jones.——"I hope, Sir," ſaid ſhe, "you are not angry, "for I would not for the world offend any of Mr All- "worthy's family. I have not ſlept a wink all night "about this matter."——"I am ſorry I have diſturb- "ed your reſt, Madam," ſaid Jones; "but I beg you "will ſend Partridge up to me immediately;" which ſhe promiſed to do, and then with a very low curtſey retired.

As ſoon as Partridge had arrived, Jones fell upon him in the moſt outrageous manner.——"How often," ſaid he, "am I to ſuffer for your folly, or rather for "my own in keeping you? Is that tongue of yours re- "ſolved on my deſtruction?"——"What have I "done, Sir?" anſwered affrighted Partridge. "Who "was it gave you authority to mention the ſtory of "the robbery, or that the man you ſaw here was the "perſon?"——"I, Sir!" cries Partridge. "Now don't "be guilty of a falſehood in denying it," ſaid Jones.— "If I did mention ſuch a matter," anſwers Partridge, "I am ſure I thought no harm; for I ſhould not have "opened my lips, if it had not been to his own friends "and relations, who, I imagined, would let it go no far- "ther." "But I have a much heavier charge againſt "you," cries Jones, "than this. How durſt you, after "all the precautions I gave you, mention the name of "Mr Allworthy in this houſe? Partridge denied that "he ever had, with many oaths. "How elſe," ſaid Jones, "ſhould Mrs Miller be acquainted that there was any "connection between him and me? and it is but this mo- "ment ſhe told me ſhe reſpected me on his account.— "O Lord, Sir," ſaid Partridge, "I deſire only to be "heard out; and to be ſure, never was any thing ſo un- "fortunate; hear me but out, and you will own how

"wrongfully

" wrongfully you have accuſed me. When Mrs Honour
" came down ſtairs laſt night, ſhe met me in the entry,
" and aſked me when my maſter had heard from Mr
" Allworthy; and to be ſure Mrs Miller heard the very
" words; and the moment Madam Honour was gone,
" ſhe called me into the parlour to her." " Mr Par-
" tridge," ſays ſhe, " what Mr Allworthy is that the
" gentlewoman mentioned? Is it the great Mr All-
" worthy of Somerſetſhire?" " Upon my word, Ma-
" dam," ſays I, " I know nothing of the matter."——
" Sure," ſays ſhe, " your maſter is not the Mr Jones
" I have heard Mr Allworthy talk of?"——" Upon
" my word, Madam," ſays I, " I know nothing of
" the matter."——" Then," ſays ſhe, turning to
her daughter Nancy, " as ſure as tenpence this is
" the very young gentleman, and he agrees exactly
" with the 'ſquire's deſcription." The Lord above
" knows who it was told her; for I am the arranteſt
" villain that ever walked upon two legs if ever it came
" out of my mouth——I promiſe you, Sir, I can
" keep a ſecret when I am deſired.——Nay, Sir, ſo
" far was I from telling her any thing about Mr Allwor-
" thy, that I told her the very direct contrary; for tho'
" I did not contradict it at that moment, yet, as ſecond
" thoughts they ſay are beſt, ſo, when I came to conſi-
" der that ſome body muſt have informed her, thinks I
" to myſelf, I will put an end to the ſtory; and ſo I
" went back again into the parlour ſome time afterwards,
" and, ſays I, upon my word, ſays I, whoever, ſays I,
" told you that this gentleman was Mr Jones; that is,
" ſays I, that this Mr Jones was that Mr Jones, told you
" a confounded lie: and I beg, ſays I, you will never
" mention any ſuch matter, ſays I; for my maſter, ſays
" I, will think I muſt have told you ſo; and I defy any
" body in the houſe ever to ſay I mentioned any ſuch
" word. To be certain, Sir, it is a wonderful thing, and
" I have been thinking with myſelf ever ſince, how it
" was ſhe came to know it; not but I ſaw an old wo-
" man here t'other day a-begging at the door, who look-
" ed as like her we ſaw in Warwickſhire, that cauſed all
" that miſchief to us. To be ſure it is never good to paſs

" by

" by an old woman without giving her ſomething, eſpe-
" cially if ſhe looks at you; for all the world ſhall never
" perſuade me but that they have a great power to do
" miſchief, and to be ſure I ſhall never ſee an old wo-
" man again, but I ſhall think to myſelf, *Infandum, Regi-*
" *na, jubes renovare dolorem.*"

The ſimplicity of Partridge ſet Jones a laughing, and put a final end to his anger, which had indeed ſeldom any long duration in his mind: and, inſtead of commenting on his defence, he told him, he intended preſently to leave thoſe lodgings, and ordered him to go and endeavour to get him others.

CHAP. IV.

Which we hope will be very attentively peruſed by young people of both ſexes.

PARTRIDGE had no ſooner left Mr Jones, than Mr Nightingale, with whom he had now contracted a great intimacy, came to him, and after a ſhort ſalutation ſaid, " So, Tom, I hear you had company very late laſt night. " Upon my ſoul you are a happy fellow, who have not " been in town above a fortnight, and can keep chairs " waiting at your door till two in the morning." He then ran on with much common-place raillery of the ſame kind, till Jones at laſt interrupted him, ſaying, " I ſup-
" poſe you have received all this information from Mrs " Miller, who hath been up here a little while ago to " give me warning. The good woman is afraid, it ſeems, " of the reputation of her daughters." " O ſhe is won-
" derfully nice," ſays Nightingale, " upon that account; " if you remember, ſhe would not let Nancy go with us " to the maſquerade." " Nay, upon my honour, I " think ſhe's in the right of it," ſays Jones; " however, " I have taken her at her word, and have ſent Partridge " to look for another lodging." " If you will," ſays Nightingale, " we may, I believe, be again together; " for, to tell you a ſecret, which I deſire you won't men-
" tion in the family, I intend to quit the houſe to-day." ——" What! hath Mrs Miller given you warning " too, my friend?' cries Jones. " No," anſwered the other;

other; "but the rooms are not convenient enough.—"Beſides, I am grown weary of this part of the town. "I want to be nearer the places of diverſion; ſo I am "going to Pall-mall."—"And do you intend to make "a ſecret of your going away?" ſaid Jones. "I pro-"miſe you," anſwered Nightingale, "I don't intend to "bilk my lodgings; but I have a private reaſon for not "taking a formal leave." "Not ſo private," anſwered Jones; "I promiſe you, I have ſeen it ever ſince the "ſecond day of my coming to the houſe.—Here will be "ſome wet eyes on your departure.—Poor Nancy; I "pity her, faith!—Indeed, Jack, you have played the fool "with that girl.——You have given her a longing, "which I am afraid nothing will ever cure her of."—Nightingale anſwered, "What the devil would you have "me do? Would you have me marry her to cure "her?" "No," anſwered Jones, "I would not have "had you make love to her, as you have often done "in my preſence. I have been aſtoniſhed at the blind-"neſs of her mother in never ſeeing it." "Pugh, "ſee it!" cries Nightingale: what the devil ſhould ſhe "ſee?" "Why, ſee," ſaid Jones, "that you have made "her daughter diſtractedly in love with you. The poor "girl cannot conceal it a moment: her eyes are never "off from you, and ſhe always colours every time you "come into the room. Indeed I pity her heartily, for "ſhe ſeems to be one of the beſt-natured and honeſteſt "of human creatures." "And ſo," anſwered Night-ingale, "according to your doctrine, one muſt not amuſe "one's ſelf by any common gallantries with women, for "fear they ſhould fall in love with us." "Indeed, "Jack," ſaid Jones, "you wilfully miſunderſtand me; "I do not fancy women are ſo apt to fall in love; but "you have gone far beyond common gallantries."—— "What! do you ſuppoſe," ſays Nightingale, "that we "have been a-bed together?" "No, upon my honour," anſwered Jones very ſeriouſly, "I do not ſuppoſe ſo ill "of you; nay, I will go farther; I do not imagine you "have laid a regular premeditated ſcheme for the deſ-"truction of the quiet of a poor little creature, or have "even foreſeen the conſequence; for I am ſure thou art

"a very

" a very good-natured fellow; and ſuch a one can ne-
" ver be guilty of a cruelty of that kind: but at the
" ſame time, you have pleaſed your own vanity, without
" conſidering that this poor girl was made a ſacrifice to
" it; and, while you have had no deſign but of amu-
" ſing an idle hour, you have actually given her reaſon to
" flatter herſelf, that you had the moſt ſerious deſigns in
" her favour. Prithee, Jack, anſwer me honeſtly; to
" what have tended all thoſe elegant and luſcious deſ-
" criptions of happineſs ariſing from violent and mutual
" fondneſs, all thoſe warm profeſſions of tenderneſs and
" generous diſintereſted love? Did you imagine ſhe
" would not apply them? or, ſpeak ingenuouſly, did
" not you intend ſhe ſhould? Upon my ſoul, Tom,"
cries Nightingale, " I did not think this was in thee.
" Thou wilt make an admirable parſon.—So, I ſuppoſe,
" you would not go to bed to Nancy now, if ſhe would
" let you?"—" No," cries Jones, " may I be d—n'd if
" I would." " Tom, Tom," anſwered Nightingale,
" laſt night; remember laſt night,

" —When ev'ry eye was clos'd, and the pale moon,
" And ſilent ſtars, ſhone conſcious of the theft."

" Lookee, Mr Nightingale," ſaid Jones, " I am no
" canting hypocrite, nor do I pretend to the gift of
" chaſtity more than my neighbours. I have been guil-
" ty with women; I own it; but am not conſcious that I
" have ever injured any.—Nor would I, to procure plea-
" ſure to myſelf, be knowingly the cauſe of miſery to
" any human being."

" Well, well," ſaid Nightingale, " I believe you,
" and I am convinced you acquit me of any ſuch
" thing."

" I do, from my heart," anſwered Jones, " of having
" debauched the girl, but not from having gained her
" affections."

" If I have," ſaid Nightingale, " I am ſorry for it;
" but time and abſence will ſoon wear off ſuch impreſ-
" ſions. It is a receipt I muſt take myſelf; for, to con-
" feſs the truth to you,—I never liked any girl half ſo
" much in my whole life; but I muſt let you into the

" whole

"whole ſecret, Tom. My father hath provided a match "for me with a woman I never ſaw; and ſhe is now "coming to town, in order for me to make my addreſ-"ſes to her."

At theſe words Jones burſt into a loud fit of laughter; when Nightingale cried,—"Nay, prithee don't turn me "into ridicule. The Devil take me if I am not half "mad about this matter! my poor Nancy! Oh Jones, "Jones, I wiſh I had a fortune in my own poſſeſſion."

"I heartily wiſh you had," cries Jones; "for, if this "be the caſe, I ſincerely pity you both; but ſurely you "don't intend to go away without taking your leave of "her!"

"I would not," anſwered Nightingale, "undergo the "pain of taking leave for ten thouſand pound; beſides, "I am convinced, inſtead of anſwering any good pur-"poſe, it would only ſerve to inflame my poor Nancy "the more. I beg therefore you would not mention a "word of it to-day, and in the evening, or to-morrow "morning, I intend to depart."

Jones promiſed he would not, and ſaid, upon reflection, he thought, as he had determined and was obliged to leave her, he took the moſt prudent method. He then told Nightingale, he ſhould be very glad to lodge in the ſame houſe with him; and it was accordingly agreed between them, that Nightingale ſhould procure him either the ground floor, or the two pair of ſtairs; for the young gentleman himſelf was to occupy that which was between them.

This Nightingale, of whom we ſhall be preſently obliged to ſay a little more, was in the ordinary tranſactions of life a man of ſtrict honour, and, what is more rare among young gentlemen of the town, one of ſtrict honeſty too; yet in affairs of love, he was ſomewhat looſe in his morals: not that he was even here as void of principle as gentlemen ſometimes are, and oftener affect to be; but it is certain he had been guilty of ſome indefenſible treachery to women, and had in a certain myſtery, called *making love*, practiſed many deceits, which if he had uſed in trade, he would have been counted the greateſt villain upon earth.

But as the world, I know not well for what reaſon, agree to ſee this treachery in a better light, he was ſo far from being aſhamed of his iniquities of this kind, that he gloried in them, and would often boaſt of his ſkill in gaining of women, and his triumphs over their hearts, for which he had before this time received ſome rebukes from Jones, who always expreſt great bitterneſs againſt any miſbehaviour to the fair part of the ſpecies, who, if conſidered, he ſaid, as they ought to be, in the light of the deareſt friends, were to be cultivated, honoured, and careſſed with the utmoſt love and tenderneſs, but if regarded as enemies, were a conqueſt of which a man ought rather to be aſhamed, than to value himſelf upon it.

CHAP. V.

A ſhort Account of the Hiſtory of Mrs Miller.

JONES this day eat a pretty good dinner for a ſick man, that is to ſay, the larger half of a ſhoulder of mutton. In the afternoon he received an invitation from Mrs Miller to drink tea; for that good woman having learnt, either by means of Partridge, or by ſome other means natural or ſupernatural, that he had a connection with Mr Allworthy, could not endure the thoughts of parting with him in an angry manner.

Jones accepted the invitation; and no ſooner was the tea-kettle removed, and the girls ſent out of the room, than the widow, without much preface, began as follows: "Well, there are very ſurpriſing things happen "in this world; but certainly it is a wonderful buſineſs, "that I ſhould have a relation of Mr Allworthy in my "houſe, and never know any thing of the matter. Alas! "Sir, you little imagine what a friend that beſt of gen-"tlemen hath been to me and mine. Yes, Sir, I am not "aſhamed to own it; it is owing to his goodneſs, that I "did not long ſince periſh for want, and leave my poor "little wretches, two deſtitute, helpleſs, friendleſs or-"phans, to the care or rather to the cruelty of the "world.

"You

"You muſt know, Sir, though I am now reduced to "get my living by ſetting lodgings, I was born and bred "a gentlewoman. My father was an officer of the ar- "my, and died in a conſiderable rank; but he lived up "to his pay; and as that expired with him, his family, "at his death, became beggars. We were three ſiſters. "One of us had the good luck to die ſoon after of the "ſmall-pox: a lady was ſo kind as to take the ſecond "out of charity, as ſhe ſaid, to wait upon her. The "mother of this lady had been a ſervant to my grand- "mother; and having inherited a vaſt fortune from "her father, which ſhe had got by pawnbroking, was "married to a gentleman of great eſtate and faſhion. "She uſed my ſiſter ſo barbarouſly, often upbraiding "her with her birth and poverty, calling her in deriſion "a gentlewoman, that I believe ſhe at length broke the "heart of the poor girl. In ſhort, ſhe likewiſe died "within a twelvemonth after my father. Fortune "thought proper to provide better for me, and within a "month from his deceaſe I was married to a clergyman, "who had been my lover a long time before, and who "had been very ill-uſed by my father on that account: "for though my poor father could not give any of us a "ſhilling, yet he bred us up as delicately, conſidered us, "and would have us conſider ourſelves, as highly as "if we had been the richeſt heireſſes. But my dear "huſband forgot all this uſage, and the moment we "were become fatherleſs, he immediately renewed his "addreſſes to me ſo warmly, that I, who always liked, "and now more than ever eſteemed him, ſoon com- "plied. Five years did I live in a ſtate of perfect hap- "pineſs with that beſt of men, 'till at laſt—Oh! cruel, "cruel fortune, that ever ſeparated us, that deprived "me of the kindeſt of huſbands, and my poor girls of "the tendereſt parent.———O my poor girls! ye "never knew the bleſſing which you loſt.—I am aſham- "ed, Mr Jones, of this womaniſh weakneſs; but I ſhall "never mention him without tears."—"I ought rather, "Madam," ſaid Jones, "to be aſhamed that I do not "accompany you."—"Well, Sir," continued ſhe, "I "was now left a ſecond time in a much worſe condition

"than before; beſides the terrible affliction I was to encounter, I had now two children to provide for; and "was, if poſſible, more pennyleſs than ever, when that "great, that good, that glorious man, Mr Allworthy, "who had ſome little acquaintance with my huſband, "accidentally heard of my diſtreſs, and immediately writ "this letter to me. Here, Sir,—here it is; I put it into "my pocket to ſhew it you. This is the letter, Sir; I "muſt and will read it to you.

"MADAM,

"I Heartily condole with you on your late grievous "loſs, which your own good ſenſe, and the excellent leſſons you muſt have learnt from the worthieſt of "men, will better enable you to bear, than any advice "which I am capable of giving. Nor have I any doubt "that you, whom I have heard to be the tendereſt of mothers, will ſuffer any immoderate indulgence of grief "to prevent you from diſcharging your duty to thoſe "poor infants, who now alone ſtand in need of your "tenderneſs.

"However, as you muſt be ſuppoſed at preſent to be "incapable of much worldly conſideration, you will pardon my having ordered a perſon to wait on you, and "to pay you twenty guineas, which I beg you will accept 'till I have the pleaſure of ſeeing you, and believe "me to be, Madam, &c."

"This letter, Sir, I received within a fortnight after the "irreparable loſs I have mentioned, and within a fortnight afterwards, Mr Allworthy,——the bleſſed Mr "Allworthy, came to pay me a viſit, when he placed me "in the houſe where you now ſee me, gave me a large "ſum of money to furniſh it, and ſettled an annuity of "50l. a-year upon me, which I have conſtantly received "ever ſince. Judge then, Mr Jones, in what regard I "muſt hold a benefactor, to whom I owe the preſervation of my life, and of thoſe dear children, for whoſe "ſake alone my life is valuable.—Do not, therefore, "think me impertinent, Mr Jones, (ſince I muſt eſteem "one for whom I know Mr Allworthy hath ſo much

"value)

" value) if I beg you not to converſe with theſe wicked " women. You are a young gentleman, and do not " know half their artful wiles. Do not be angry with " me, Sir, for what I ſaid upon account of my houſe; " you muſt be ſenſible it would be the ruin of my poor " dear girls. Beſides, Sir, you cannot but be acquaint- " ed, that Mr Allworthy himſelf would never forgive " my conniving at ſuch matters, and particularly with " you."

" Upon my word, Madam," ſaid Jones, " you need " make no farther apology; nor do I in the leaſt take " any thing ill you have ſaid: but give me leave, as no " one can have more value than myſelf for Mr All- " worthy, to deliver you from one miſtake, which per- " haps, would not be altogether for his honour; I do " aſſure you, I am no relation of his."

" Alas! Sir," anſwered ſhe, " I know you are not. I " know very well who you are; for Mr Allworthy hath " told me all: but I do aſſure you, had you been twenty " times his ſon, he could not have expreſſed more regard " for you than he hath often expreſſed in my preſence. " You need not be aſhamed, Sir, of what you are; I pro- " miſe you no good perſon will eſteem you the leſs on that " account. No, Mr Jones; the words, " diſhonourable " birth," are nonſenſe, as my dear, dear huſband uſed " to ſay, unleſs the word " diſhonourable" be applied " to the parents; for the children can derive no real " diſhonour from an act of which they are entirely inno- " cent."

Here Jones heaved a deep ſigh, and then ſaid, " Since " I perceive, Madam, you really do know me, and Mr " Allworthy hath thought proper to mention my name " to you; and ſince you have been ſo explicit with me " as to your own affairs, I will acquaint you with ſome " more circumſtances concerning myſelf." And theſe Mrs Miller having expreſſed great deſire and curioſity to hear, he began and related to her his whole hiſtory, with- out once mentioning the name of Sophia.

There is a kind of ſympathy in honeſt minds, by means of which they give an eaſy credit to each other. Mrs Miller believed all which Jones told her to be true, and

expreſſed

expreſſed much pity and concern for him. She was beginning to comment on the ſtory, but Jones interrupted her; for as the hour of aſſignation now drew nigh, he began to ſtipulate for a ſecond interview with the lady that evening, which he promiſed ſhould be the laſt at her houſe; ſwearing, at the ſame time, that ſhe was one of great diſtinction, and that nothing but what was entirely innocent was to paſs between them; and I do firmly believe he intended to keep his word.

Mrs Miller was at length prevailed on, and Jones departed to his chamber, where he ſat alone till twelve o'clock, but no Lady Bellaſton appeared.

As we have ſaid that this lady had a great affection for Jones, and it muſt have appeared that ſhe really had ſo, the reader may perhaps wonder at the firſt failure of her appointment, as ſhe apprehended him to be confined by ſickneſs, a ſeaſon when friendſhip ſeems moſt to require ſuch viſits. This behaviour, therefore, in the lady, may, by ſome, be condemned as unnatural; but that is not our fault, for our buſineſs is only to record truth.

CHAP. VI.

Containing a ſcene which we doubt not will affect all our readers.

MR Jones cloſed not his eyes during all the former part of the night; not owing it to any uneaſineſs which he conceived at being diſappointed by lady Bellaſton; nor was Sophia herſelf, though moſt of his waking hours were juſtly to be charged to her account, the preſent cauſe of diſpelling his ſlumbers. In fact, poor Jones was one of the beſt natured fellows alive, and had all that weakneſs which is called compaſſion, and which diſtinguiſhes this imperfect character from that noble firmneſs of mind which rolls a man, as it were, within himſelf, and, like a poliſhed bowl, enables him to run through the world, without being once ſtopped by the calamities which happen to others. He could not help, therefore, compaſſionating the ſituation of poor Nancy, whoſe

whoſe love for Mr Nightingale ſeemed to him ſo apparent that he was aſtoniſhed at the blindneſs of her mother, who had more than once, the preceding evening, remarked to him, the great change in the temper of her daughter, "who from being," ſhe ſaid, "one of the "liveliеſt, merrieſt girls in the world, was, on a ſudden, "become all gloom and melancholy."

Sleep, however, at length got the better of all reſiſtance; and now, as if he had already been a deity, as the ancients imagined, and an offended one too, he ſeemed to enjoy his dear-bought conqueſt.—To ſpeak ſimply, and without any metaphor, Mr Jones ſlept till eleven the next morning, and would perhaps have continued in the ſame quiet ſituation much longer, had not a violent uproar awakened him.

Partridge was now ſummoned, who, being aſked what was the matter, anſwered, "that there was a dreadful hur-"ricane below ſtairs; that Miſs Nancy was in fits; and "that the other ſiſter, and the mother, were both crying "and lamenting over her." Jones expreſſed much concern at this news, which Partridge endeavoured to relieve, by ſaying with a ſmile, "he fancied the young lady was in no "danger of death; for that Sufan (which was the name "of the maid) had given him to underſtand, it was no-"thing more than a common affair. In ſhort," ſaid he, "Miſs Nancy hath had a mind to be as wiſe as her mo-"ther, that's all; ſhe was a little hungry, it ſeems, and "ſat down to dinner before grace was ſaid; and ſo there "is a child coming for the foundling-hoſpital." "Prithee "leave thy ſtupid jeſting," cries Jones. "Is the mi-"ſery of theſe poor wretches a ſubject of mirth? Go "immediately to Mrs Miller, and tell her, I beg leave— "Stay, you will make ſome blunder; I will go myſelf; "for ſhe deſired me to breakfaſt with her." He then roſe, and dreſſed himſelf as faſt as he could; and while he was dreſſing, Partridge, notwithſtanding many ſevere rebukes, could not avoid throwing forth certain pieces of brutality, commonly called jeſts, on this occaſion. Jones was no ſooner dreſſed, than he walked down ſtairs, and knocking at the door, was preſently admitted, by the maid, into the outward parlour, which was as empty

of

of company as it was of any apparatus for eating. Mrs Miller was in the inner room with her daughter, whence the maid preſently brought a meſſage to Mr Jones, "that "her miſtreſs hoped he would excuſe the diſappointment, "but an accident had happened, which made it impoſſible "for her to have the pleaſure of his company at breakfaſt "that day; and begged his pardon for not ſending him "up notice ſooner." "Jones deſired ſhe would give her-"ſelf no trouble about any thing ſo trifling as his diſap-"pointment; that he was heartily ſorry for the occaſion; "and that if he could be of any ſervice to her, ſhe might "command him."

He had ſcarce ſpoke theſe words, when Mrs Miller, who heard them all, ſuddenly threw open the door, and coming out to him, in a flood of tears, ſaid, O "Mr Jones, you are certainly one of the beſt young "men alive. I give you a thouſand thanks for your "kind offer of your ſervice; but, alas! Sir, it is out of "your power to preſerve my poor girl.—O my child, "my child! ſhe is undone, ſhe is ruined for ever!" "I "hope, Madam," ſaid Jones, "no villain,"—"O Mr "Jones," ſaid ſhe, "that villain who yeſterday left my "lodgings hath betrayed my poor girl; hath deſtroyed "her,——I know you are a man of honour. You have "a good—a noble heart, Mr Jones. The actions to "which I have been myſelf a witneſs, could proceed "from no other. I will tell you all; nay, indeed, it is "impoſſible, after what hath happened, to keep it a ſe-"cret. That Nightingale, that barbarous villain hath "undone my daughter. She is—ſhe is—oh! Oh Mr "Jones, my girl is with child by him; and in that con-"dition he hath deſerted her. Here! here, Sir, is his "cruel letter: read it Mr Jones, and tell me if ſuch an-"other monſter lives."

The letter was as follows:

"Dear Nancy,

"AS I found it impoſſible to mention to you what, "I am afraid, will be no leſs ſhocking to you, "than it is to me, I have taken this method to inform

"you,

" you, that my father inſiſts upon my immediately pay-
" ing my addreſſes to a young lady of fortune, whom
" he hath provided for my—I need not write the de-
" teſted word. Your own good underſtanding will
" make you ſenſible, how entirely I am obliged to an o-
" bedience, by which I ſhall be for ever excluded from
" your dear arms. The fondneſs of your mother may
" encourage you to truſt her with the unhappy conſe-
" quence of our love, which may be eaſily kept a ſecret
" from the world, and for which I will take care to pro-
" vide, as I will for you. I wiſh you may feel leſs on
" this account than I have ſuffered: but ſummon all
" your fortitude to your aſſiſtance, and forgive and for-
" get the man, whom nothing but the proſpect of cer-
" tain ruin could have forced to write this letter. I bid
" you forget me, I mean only as a lover; but the beſt
" of friends you ſhall ever find in

" Your faithful, though unhappy,

" J. N."

When Jones had read this letter, they both ſtood ſilent during a minute looking at each other; at laſt he began thus: " I cannot expreſs, Madam, how much
" I am ſhocked at what I have read; yet let me beg
" you, in one particular, to take the writer's advice.
" Conſider the reputation of your daughter."——" It is
" gone, it is loſt, Mr Jones," cry'd ſhe, " as well as
" her innocence. She received the letter in a room full
" of company, and immediately ſwooning away upon o-
" pening it, the contents were known to every one pre-
" ſent. But the loſs of her reputation, bad as it is, is
" not the worſt; I ſhall loſe my child; ſhe hath at-
" tempted twice to deſtroy herſelf already; and, tho'
" ſhe hath hitherto been prevented, vows ſhe will not
" outlive it; nor could I myſelf outlive any accident of
" that nature.—What then will become of my little Bet-
" ſey, a helpleſs infant-orphan? And the poor little
" wretch will, I believe, break her heart at the miſeries
" with which ſhe ſees her ſiſter and myſelf diſtracted,
" while ſhe is ignorant of the cauſe.—O 'tis the moſt
" ſenſible and beſt-natured little thing. The barbarous

" cruel——hath deſtroyed us all. O my poor children! " Is this the reward of all my cares? Is this the fruit of " all my proſpects? Have I ſo cheerfully undergone all " the labours and duties of a mother? Have I been " ſo tender of their infancy, ſo careful of their educa- " tion? Have I been toiling ſo many years, denying my- " ſelf even the conveniences of life, to provide ſome little " ſuſtenance for them, to loſe one or both in ſuch a " manner?" " Indeed, Madam," ſaid Jones with tears in his eyes, " I pity you from my ſoul."——" O Mr Jones," anſwered ſhe, " even you, though I know the goodneſs " of your heart, can have no idea of what I feel. The " beſt, the kindeſt, and moſt dutiful of children!—O my " poor Nancy, the darling of my ſoul! the delight of " my eyes! the pride of my heart! too much indeed " my pride; for to thoſe fooliſh, ambitious hopes, ariſing " from her beauty, I owe her ruin. Alas! I ſaw with " pleaſure the liking which this young man had for her. " I thought it an honourable affection, and flattered my " fooliſh vanity with the thoughts of ſeeing her mar- " ried to one ſo much her ſuperior: and a thouſand " times in my preſence, nay often in yours, he hath " endeavoured to ſooth and encourage theſe hopes by " the moſt generous expreſſions of diſintereſted love, " which he hath always directed to my poor girl, and " which I, as well as ſhe, believed to be real. Could I " have believed, that theſe were only ſnares laid to be- " tray the innocence of my child, and for the ruin of us " all?"—At theſe words little Betſey came running into the room, crying, " Dear Mamma, for Heaven's ſake " come to my ſiſter; for ſhe is in another fit, and my " couſin can't hold her." Mrs Miller immediately obeyed the ſummons, but firſt ordered Betſey to ſtay with Mr Jones, and begged him to entertain her a few minutes, ſaying in the moſt pathetic voice, " Good Heaven! " let me preſerve one of my children at the leaſt."

Jones, in compliance with this requeſt, did all he could to comfort the little girl, though he was in reality himſelf very highly affected with Mrs Miller's ſtory. He told her, " Her ſiſter would be ſoon very well again; " that, by taking on in that manner, ſhe would not on- " ly make her ſiſter worſe, but make her mother ill too."

" Indeed,

"Indeed, Sir," ſaid ſhe, "I would not do any thing to "hurt them for the world. I would rather burſt my "heart than they ſhould ſee me cry.—But my poor ſiſ-"ter can't ſee me cry.——I am afraid ſhe will ne-"ver be able to ſee me any more. Indeed I can't part "with her; indeed I can't.—And then poor mamma "too, what will become of her?—She ſays ſhe will die "too, and leave me: but I am reſolved I won't be left "behind." "And are you not afraid to die, my little "Betſey?" ſaid Jones. "Yes," anſwered ſhe, "I was "always afraid to die, becauſe I muſt have left my mam-"ma and my ſiſter; but I am not afraid to go any where "with thoſe I love."

Jones was ſo pleaſed with this anſwer, that he eagerly kiſſed the child; and ſoon after Mrs Miller returned, ſaying, "She thanked Heaven Nancy was now come to "herſelf. And now, Betſey," ſays ſhe, "you may go "in; for your ſiſter is better, and longs to ſee you." She then turned to Jones, and began to renew her apologies for having diſappointed him of his breakfaſt.

"I hope, Madam," ſaid Jones, "I ſhall have a more "exquiſite repaſt than any you could have provided for "me. This, I aſſure you, will be the caſe, if I can do "any ſervice to this little family of love. But, whatever "ſucceſs may attend my endeavours, I am reſolved to "attempt it. I am very much deceived in Mr Nightin-"gale, if, notwithſtanding what hath happened, he hath "not much goodneſs of heart at the bottom, as well as "a very violent affection for your daughter. If this be "the caſe, I think the picture, which I ſhall lay before "him, will affect him. Endeavour, Madam, to comfort "yourſelf and Miſs Nancy as well as you can: I will "go inſtantly in queſt of Mr Nightingale; and I hope "to bring you good news."

Mrs Miller fell upon her knees, and invoked all the bleſſings of heaven upon Mr Jones; to which ſhe afterwards added the moſt paſſionate expreſſions of gratitude. He then departed to find Mr Nightingale, and the good woman returned to comfort her daughter, who was ſomewhat cheered at what her mother told her; and both joined in reſounding the praiſes of Mr Jones.

CHAP. VII.

The interview between Mr Jones *and Mr* Nightingale.

THE good or evil we confer on others, very often, I believe, recoils on ourſelves: for as men of a benign diſpoſition enjoy their own acts of beneficence equally with thoſe to whom they are done, ſo there are ſcarce any natures ſo entirely diabolical, as to be capable of doing injuries, without paying themſelves ſome pangs for the ruin which they bring upon their fellow-creatures.

Mr Nightingale at leaſt was not ſuch a perſon. On the contrary, Jones found him in his new lodgings, ſitting melancholy by the fire, and ſilently lamenting the unhappy ſituation in which he had placed poor Nancy. He no ſooner ſaw his friend appear, than he aroſe haſtily to meet him, and after much congratulation ſaid, "Nothing could be more opportune than this kind viſit, "for I was never more in the ſpleen in my life."

"I am ſorry," anſwered Jones, "that I bring news "very unlikely to relieve you, nay what I am convinced "muſt, of all others, ſhock you the moſt. However, "it is neceſſary you ſhould know it. Without further "preface then, I come to you, Mr Nightingale, from a "worthy family, which you have involved in miſery "and ruin." Mr Nightingale changed colour at theſe words: but Jones, without regarding it, proceeded in the livelieſt manner to paint the tragical ſtory, with which the reader was acquainted in the laſt chapter.

Nightingale never once interrupted the narration, though he diſcovered violent emotions at many parts of it. But, when it was concluded, after fetching a deep ſigh, he ſaid, "What you tell me, my friend, affects me "in the tendereſt manner. Sure there never was ſo "curſed an accident as the poor girl's betraying my letter. "Her reputation might otherwiſe have been ſafe, and "the affair might have remained a profound ſecret; and "then the girl might have gone off never the worſe; "for many ſuch things happen in this town; and if the

"huſband

" huſband ſhould ſuſpect a little when it is too late, it " will be his wiſer conduct to conceal his ſuſpicion both " from his wife and the world."

" Indeed, my friend," anſwered Jones, " this could " not have been the caſe with your poor Nancy. You " have ſo entirely gained her affection, that it is the loſs " of you, and not of her reputation, which afflicts her, " and will end in the deſtruction of her and her family." " Nay, for that matter, I promiſe you," cries Nightingale, " ſhe hath my affections ſo abſolutely, that my " wife, whoever ſhe is to be, will have very little ſhare " in them." " And is it poſſible then," ſaid Jones, " you can think of deſerting her?" " Why, what can " I do?" anſwered the other. " Aſk Miſs Nancy," replied Jones warmly. " In the condition to which you " have reduced her, I ſincerely think ſhe ought to de- " termine what reparation you ſhall make her. Her in- " tereſt alone, and not your's, ought to be your ſole " conſideration. But, if you aſk me what you ſhall do, " what can you do leſs," cries Jones, " than fulfil the " expectations of her family and her own? Nay, I ſin- " cerely tell you, they were mine too, ever ſince I firſt " ſaw you together. You will pardon me, if I preſume " on the friendſhip you have favoured me with, moved " as I am with compaſſion for thoſe poor creatures. " But your own heart will beſt ſuggeſt to you, whether " you have never intended by your conduct to perſuade " the mother, as well as the daughter, into an opinion, " that you deſigned honourably; and if ſo, though there " may have been no direct promiſe of marriage in the " caſe, I will leave to your own good underſtanding, " how far you are bound to proceed."

" Nay, I muſt not only confeſs what you have hint- " ed," ſaid Nightingale; " but I am afraid even that " very promiſe you mention I have given." " And can " you, after owning that," ſaid Jones, " heſitate a mo- " ment?" " Conſider, my friend," anſwered the other; " I know you are a man of honour, and would adviſe " no one to act contrary to its rules; if there were no " other objection, can I, after this publication of her diſ- " grace, think of ſuch an alliance with honour?" " Un-

" doubtedly,"

"doubtedly," replied Jones; "and the very beſt and "trueſt honour, which is goodneſs, requires it of you. "As you mention a ſcruple of this kind, you will give "me leave to examine it. Can you with honour be "guilty of having, under falſe pretences, deceived a "young woman and her family, and of having by theſe "means treacherouſly robbed her of her innocence? Can "you with honour be the knowing, the wilful occaſion, "nay the artful contriver of the ruin of a human being? "Can you with honour deſtroy the fame, the peace, nay "probably both the life and ſoul of this creature? Can "honour bear the thought, that this creature is a tender, "helpleſs, defenceleſs, young woman? a young woman "who loves, who doats on you, who dies for you, who "hath placed the utmoſt confidence in your promiſes, "and to that confidence hath ſacrificed every thing "which is dear to her? Can honour ſupport ſuch con-"templations as theſe a moment?"

"Common ſenſe, indeed," ſaid Nightingale, "war-"rants all you ſay; but yet you well know the opinion "of the world is ſo contrary to it, that if I was to marry "a whore, though my own, I ſhould be aſhamed of "ever ſhewing my face again."

"Fie upon it, Mr Nightingale," ſaid Jones, "do "not call her by ſo ungenerous a name: when you pro-"miſed to marry her, ſhe became your wife; and ſhe "hath ſinned more againſt prudence than virtue. And "what is this world, which you would be aſhamed to "face, but the vile, the fooliſh, and the profligate? For-"give me, if I ſay ſuch a ſhame muſt proceed from falſe "modeſty, which always attends falſe honour as its ſha-"dow.—But I am aſſured, there is not a man of real "ſenſe and goodneſs in the world, who would not ho-"nour and applaud the action. But admit no other "would, would not your own heart, my friend, applaud "it? And do not the warm, the rapturous ſenſations, "which we feel from the conſciouſneſs of an honeſt, no-"ble, generous, benevolent action, convey more delight "to the mind, than the undeſerved praiſe of millions? "Set the alternative fairly before your eyes. On the "one ſide, ſee this poor, unhappy, tender, believing

"girl,

" girl, in the arms of her wretched mother, breathing
" her laſt. Hear her breaking her heart in agonies,
" ſighing out your name, and lamenting, rather than ac-
" cuſing, the cruelty which weighs her down to deſtruc-
" tion. Paint to your imagination the circumſtances of
" her fond, deſpairing parent, driven to madneſs, or
" perhaps to death, by the loſs of her lovely daughter.
" View the poor, helpleſs, orphan-infant; and, when
" your mind hath dwelt a moment only on ſuch ideas,
" conſider yourſelf as the cauſe of all the ruin of this
" poor, little, worthy, defenceleſs family. On the other
" ſide, conſider yourſelf as relieving them from their
" temporary ſufferings. Think with what joy, with
" what tranſports, that lovely creature will fly to your
" arms. See her blood returning to her pale cheeks,
" the fire to her languid eyes, and raptures to her tor-
" tured breaſt. Conſider the exultations of her mother,
" the happineſs of all. Think of this little family made,
" by one act of yours, completely happy. Think of this
" alternative, and ſure I am miſtaken in my friend, if it
" requires any long deliberation, whether he will ſink
" theſe wretches down for ever, or by one generous, no-
" ble reſolution, raiſe them all from the brink of miſery
" and deſpair to the higheſt pitch of human happineſs.
" Add to this but one conſideration more; the conſi-
" deration that it is your duty ſo to do—That the mi-
" ſery from which you will relieve theſe poor people, is
" the miſery which you yourſelf have wilfully brought
" upon them."

" O my dear friend," cries Nightingale, " I wanted
" not your eloquence to rouſe me. I pity poor Nancy
" from my ſoul, and would willingly give any thing in
" my power, that no familiarities had ever paſſed be-
" tween us. Nay, believe me, I had many ſtruggles
" with my paſſion, before I could prevail with myſelf to
" write that cruel letter, which hath cauſed all the mi-
" ſery in that unhappy family. If I had no inclinations
" to conſult but my own, I would marry her to-morrow
" morning: I would, by Heaven; but you will eaſily ima-
" gine how impoſſible it would be to prevail on my fa-
" ther to conſent to ſuch a match; beſides, he hath

" provided

"provided another for me; and to-morrow, by his ex-
"preſs command, I am to wait on the lady."

"I have not the honour to know your father," ſaid Jones; "but ſuppoſe he could be perſuaded, would you "yourſelf conſent to the only means of preſerving theſe "poor people?" "As eagerly as I would purſue my "happineſs," anſwered Nightingale; "for I never ſhall "find it in any other woman.—O my dear friend, could "you imagine what I have felt within theſe twelve hours "for my poor girl, I am convinced ſhe would not en-
"groſs all your pity. Paſſion leads me only to her; "and, if I had any fooliſh ſcruples of honour, you have "fully ſatisfied them: Could my father be induced to "comply with my deſires, nothing would be wanting to "complete my own happineſs, or that of my Nancy."

"Then I am reſolved to undertake it," ſaid Jones. "You muſt not be angry with me, in whatever light it "may be neceſſary to ſet this affair, which, you may de-
"pend on it, could not otherwiſe be long hid from him; "for things of this nature make a quick progreſs when "once they get abroad, as this unhappily hath already. "Beſides, ſhould any fatal accident follow, as, upon my "ſoul, I am afraid will, unleſs immediately prevented, "the public would ring of your name in a manner, "which, if your father hath common humanity, muſt "offend him. If you will therefore tell me where I "may find the old gentleman, I will not loſe a moment "in the buſineſs; which, while I purſue, you cannot do "a more generous action than by paying a viſit to the "poor girl. You will find I have not exaggerated in "the account I have given of the wretchedneſs of the "family."

Nightingale immediately conſented to the propoſal; and now, having acquainted Jones with his father's lodg-
"ing, and the coffee-houſe where he would moſt proba-
bly find him, he heſitated a moment, and then ſaid, "My dear Tom, you are going to undertake an impoſ-
"ſibility. If you knew my father, you would never "think of obtaining his conſent—Stay, there is one way "—Suppoſe you told him I was already married, it "might be eaſier to reconcile him to the fact after it was

"done

" done; and, upon my honour, I am ſo affected with " what you have ſaid, and I love my Nancy ſo paſſion- " ately, I almoſt wiſh it was done, whatever might be " the conſequence."

Jones greatly approved the hint, and promiſed to purſue it. They then ſeparated, Nightingale to viſit his Nancy, and Jones in queſt of the old gentleman.

CHAP. VIII.

What paſſed between Jones *and old Mr* Nightingale; *with the arrival of a perſon not yet mentioned in this Hiſtory.*

NOTWITHSTANDING the ſentiment of the Roman ſatiriſt, which denies the divinity of fortune, and the opinion of Seneca to the ſame purpoſe, Cicero, who was I believe a wiſer man than either of them, expreſsly holds the contrary; and certain it is, there are ſome incidents in life ſo very ſtrange and unaccountable, that it ſeems to require more than human ſkill and foreſight in producing them.

Of this kind was what now happened to Jones, who found Mr Nightingale the elder in ſo critical a minute, that fortune, if ſhe was really worthy all the worſhip ſhe received at Rome, could not have contrived ſuch another. In ſhort, the old gentleman, and the father of the young lady whom he intended for his ſon, had been hard at it for many hours; and the latter was juſt now gone, and had left the former delighted with the thoughts, that he had ſucceeded in a long contention which had been between the two fathers of the future bride and bridegroom; in which both endeavoured to over-reach the other, and, as it not rarely happens in ſuch caſes, both had retreated fully ſatisfied of having obtained the victory.

This gentleman whom Mr Jones now viſited was what they call a man of the world; that is to ſay, a man who directs his conduct in this world as one who, being fully perſuaded there is no other, is reſolved to make the moſt of this. In his early years he had been bred to trade; but, having acquired a very good fortune, he had

lately declined his buſineſs, or, to ſpeak more properly, had changed it from dealing in goods to dealing in money, of which he had always a plentiful fund at command, and of which he knew very well how to make a very plentiful advantage; ſometimes of the neceſſities of private men, and ſometimes of thoſe of the public. He had indeed converſed ſo entirely with money, that it may be almoſt doubted, whether he imagined there was any other thing really exiſting in the world; this at leaſt may be certainly averred, that he firmly believed nothing elſe to have any real value.

The reader will, I fancy, allow, that fortune could not have called out a more improper perſon for Mr Jones to attack with any probability of ſucceſs; nor could the whimſical lady have directed this attack at a more unſeaſonable time.

As money then was always uppermoſt in this gentleman's thoughts, ſo, the moment he ſaw a ſtranger within his doors, it immediately occurred to his imagination, that ſuch ſtranger was either come to bring him money, or to fetch it from him. And, according as one or other of theſe thoughts prevailed, he conceived a favourable or unfavourable idea of the perſon who approached him.

Unluckily for Jones, the latter of theſe was the aſcendant at preſent; for, as a young gentleman had viſited him the day before with a bill from his ſon for a play-debt, he apprehended, at the firſt ſight of Jones, that he was come on ſuch another errand. Jones therefore had no ſooner told him, that he was come on his ſon's account, than the old gentleman, being confirmed in his ſuſpicion, burſt forth into an exclamation, "that he "would loſe his labour." "Is it then poſſible, Sir," anſwered Jones, "that you can gueſs my buſineſs?"— "If I do gueſs it," replied the other, "I repeat again to "you, you will loſe your labour. What, I ſuppoſe you "are one of thoſe ſparks who lead my ſon into all thoſe "ſcenes of riot and debauchery, which will be his deſ-"truction; but I ſhall pay no more of his bills I promiſe "you. I expect he will quit all ſuch company for the "future. If I had imagined otherwiſe, I ſhould not

"have

"have provided a wife for him, for I would be inſtru-
"mental in the ruin of nobody." "How, Sir," ſaid Jones, "and was this lady of your providing?"——
"Pray, Sir," anſwered the old gentleman, "how comes
"it to be any concern of yours?"—"Nay, dear Sir," replied Jones, "be not offended that I intereſt myſelf in
"what regards your ſon's happineſs, for whom I have
"ſo great an honour and value. It was upon that very
"account I came to wait upon you. I can't expreſs
"the ſatisfaction you have given me by what you ſay;
"for I do aſſure you, your ſon is a perſon for whom I
"have the higheſt honour.—Nay, Sir, it is not eaſy to
"expreſs the eſteem I have for you, who could be ſo
"generous, ſo good, ſo kind, ſo indulgent, to provide
"ſuch a match for your ſon; a woman, who I dare
"ſwear will make him one of the happieſt men upon
"earth."

There is ſcarce any thing which ſo happily introduces men to our good liking, as having conceived ſome alarm at their firſt appearance; when once thoſe apprehenſions begin to vaniſh, we ſoon forget the fears which they occaſioned, and look on ourſelves as indebted for our preſent eaſe, to thoſe very perſons who at firſt raiſed our fears.

Thus it happened to Nightingale, who no ſooner found that Jones had no demand on him, as he ſuſpected, than he began to be pleaſed with his preſence.—"Pray, good
"Sir," ſaid he, "be pleaſed to ſit down, I do not re-
"member to have ever had the pleaſure of ſeeing you
"before; but if you are a friend of my ſon, and have
"any thing to ſay concerning this young lady, I ſhall be
"glad to hear you. As to her making him happy, it
"will be his own fault if ſhe doth not. I have diſchar-
"ged my duty, in taking care of the main article. She
"will bring him a fortune capable of making any rea-
"ſonable, prudent, ſober man, happy." "Undoubted-
"ly," cries Jones; "for ſhe is in herſelf a fortune; ſo
"beautiful, ſo genteel, ſo ſweet-tempered, and ſo well
"educated; ſhe is indeed a moſt accompliſhed young
"lady, ſings admirably well, and hath a moſt delicate
"hand at the harpſichord" "I did not know any of

"theſe matters," anſwered the old gentleman, "for I "never ſaw the lady; but I do not like her the worſe "for what you tell me: and I am the better pleaſed "with her father for not laying any ſtreſs on theſe "qualifications in our bargain. I ſhall always think it "a proof of his underſtanding. A ſilly fellow would "have brought in theſe articles as an addition to her "fortune; but, to give him his due, he never mention-"ed any ſuch matter, though to be ſure they are no "diſparagements to a woman." "I do aſſure you, Sir," cries Jones, "ſhe hath them all in the moſt eminent "degree; for my part, I own I was afraid you might "have been a little backward, a little leſs inclined to the "match; for your ſon told me you had never ſeen the "lady; therefore I came, Sir, in that caſe, to entreat "you, to conjure you, as you value the happineſs of "your ſon, not to be averſe to his match with a woman "who hath not only all the good qualities I have men-"tioned, but many more."——"If that was your buſi-"neſs, Sir," ſaid the old gentleman, "we are both o-"bliged to you; and you may be perfectly eaſy; for I "give you my word, I was very well ſatisfied with her "fortune." "Sir," anſwered Jones, "I honour you "every moment more and more. To be ſo eaſily ſatis-"fied, ſo very moderate on that account, is a proof of "the ſoundneſs of your underſtanding, as well as the "nobleneſs of your mind."——"Not ſo very mode-"rate, young gentleman, not ſo very moderate," anſwered the father.——"Still more and more "noble," replied Jones, "and give me leave to "add, ſenſible: for ſure it is little leſs than madneſs, to "conſider money as the ſole foundation of happineſs. "Such a woman as this with her little, her nothing of "a fortune"—"I find" cries the old gentleman, "you "have a pretty juſt opinion of money, my friend, or "elſe you are better acquainted with the perſon of the "lady, than with her circumſtances. Why, pray, what "fortune do you imagine this lady to have?"—"What "fortune?" cries Jones; "why, too contemptible a one "to be named for your ſon." "Well, well, well," ſaid the other, "perhaps he might have done better." "—That I deny," ſaid Jones; "for ſhe is one of

"the

"the beſt of women." "Ay, ay, but in point of for-"tune I mean," anſwered the other.——"And yet, as "to that now, how much do you imagine your friend "is to have?"——"How much," cries Jones, "how "much!—Why, at the utmoſt, perhaps 200l."

"Do you mean to banter me, young gentleman!" ſaid the father a little angry.——"No, upon my ſoul," anſwered Jones, "I am in earneſt; nay, I believe I have "gone to the utmoſt farthing. If I do the lady "an injury, I aſk her pardon." "Indeed you do," cries the father. "I am certain ſhe hath fifty times "that ſum, and ſhe ſhall produce fifty to that, before I "conſent that ſhe ſhall marry my ſon." "Nay," ſaid Jones, "it is too late to talk of conſent now.——If ſhe "had not fifty farthings, your ſon is married."—— "My ſon married!" anſwered the old gentleman with ſurpriſe. "Nay," ſaid Jones, "I thought you was unac-"quainted with it."—"My ſon married to Miſs Harris?" anſwered he again.——"To Miſs Harris!" ſaid Jones; "no, Sir, to Miſs Nancy Miller, the daughter of Mrs "Miller, at whoſe houſe he lodged; a young lady, who, "though her mother is reduced to let lodgings——" "Are you bantering, or are you in earneſt?" cries the father with a moſt ſolemn voice. "Indeed, Sir," anſwered Jones, "I ſcorn the character of a banterer. I "came to you in moſt ſerious earneſt, imagining, as I "find true, that your ſon had never dared acquaint you "with a match ſo much inferior to him in point of for-"tune, though the reputation of the lady will ſuffer it "no longer to remain a ſecret."

While the father ſtood like one ſtruck ſuddenly dumb at this news, a gentleman came into the room, and ſaluted him by the name of Brother.

But though theſe two were in conſanguinity ſo nearly related, they were in their diſpoſitions almoſt the oppoſites to each other. The brother, who now arrived, had likewiſe been bred to trade, in which he no ſooner ſaw himſelf worth 60001. than he purchaſed a ſmall eſtate with the greateſt part of it, and retired into the country, where he married the daughter of an unbeneficed clergyman, a young lady, who, though ſhe had

neither

neither beauty nor fortune, had recommended herſelf to his choice entirely by her good humour, of which ſhe poſſeſſed a very large ſhare.

With this woman he had, during twenty-five years, lived a life more reſembling the model which certain poets aſcribe to the golden age, than any of thoſe patterns which are furniſhed by the preſent times. By her he had four children; but none of them arrived at maturity, except only one daughter, whom, in vulgar language, he and his wife, had ſpoiled, that is, had educated with the utmoſt tenderneſs and fondneſs, which ſhe returned to ſuch a degree, that ſhe had actually refuſed a very extraordinary match with a gentleman a little turned of forty, becauſe ſhe could not bring herſelf to part with her parents.

The young lady, whom Mr Nightingale had intended for his ſon, was a near neighbour of his brother, and an acquaintance of this niece; and in reality it was upon the account of this projected match, that he was now come to town, not indeed to forward, but to diſſuade his brother from a purpoſe, which he conceived would inevitably ruin his nephew; for he foreſaw no other event from an union with Miſs Harris, notwithſtanding the largeneſs of her fortune, as neither her perſon nor mind ſeemed to him to promiſe any kind of matrimonial felicity; for ſhe was very tall, very thin, very ugly, very affected, very ſilly, and very ill-natured.

His brother, therefore, no ſooner mentioned the marriage of his nephew with Miſs Miller, than he expreſt the utmoſt ſatisfaction; and, when the father had very bitterly reviled his ſon, and pronounced ſentence of beggary upon him, the uncle began in the following manner:

"If you was a little cooler, brother, I would aſk "you whether you love your ſon for his ſake, or for "your own. You would anſwer, I ſuppoſe, and ſo I "ſuppoſe you think, for his ſake; and doubtleſs it is "his happineſs which you intended in the marriage you "propoſed for him.

"Now, brother, to preſcribe rules of happineſs to o-"thers hath always appeared to me very abſurd, and to "inſiſt

" inſiſt on doing this, very tyrannical. It is a vulgar " error, I know; but it is nevertheleſs an error: and, " if this be abſurd in other things, it is moſtly ſo in the " affair of marriage, the happineſs of which depends " entirely on the affection which ſubſiſts between the " parties.

" I have therefore always thought it unreaſonable in pa- " rents to deſire to chuſe for their children on this occa- " ſion ſince to force affection is an impoſſible attempt; nay, " ſo much doth love abhor force, that I know not whe- " ther through an unfortunate, but incurable perverſe- " neſs in our natures, it may not be even impatient of " perſuaſion.

" It is however true, that though a parent will not, " I think, wiſely preſcribe, he ought to be conſulted on " this occaſion, and in ſtrictneſs perhaps ſhould at leaſt " have a negative voice. My nephew therefore, I own, " in marrying without aſking your advice, hath been " guilty of a fault. But honeſtly ſpeaking, brother, " have you not a little promoted this fault? Have not " your frequent declarations on this ſubject given him a " moral certainty of your refuſal, where there was any " deficiency in point of fortune? nay, doth not your " preſent anger ariſe ſolely from that deficiency? And, " if he hath failed in his duty here, did you not as " much exceed that authority, when you abſolutely bar- " gained with him for a woman without his knowledge, " whom you yourſelf never ſaw, and whom, if you had " ſeen and known as well as I, it muſt have been mad- " neſs in you to have ever thought of bringing her into " your family.

" Still I own my nephew in a fault; but ſurely it is " not an unpardonable fault. He hath acted indeed, " without your conſent, in a matter in which he ought to " have aſked it; but it is in a matter in which his intereſt " is principally concerned; you yourſelf muſt and will " acknowledge, that you conſulted his intereſt only; " and, if he unfortunately differed from you, and hath " been miſtaken in his notion of happineſs, will you, bro- " ther, if you love your ſon, carry him ſtill wider from the " point? will you increaſe the ill conſequences of his

" ſimple

" ſimple choice? will you endeavour to make an event " certain miſery to him, which may accidentally prove " ſo? in a word, brother, becauſe he hath put it out of " your power to make his circumſtances as affluent as " you would, will you diſtreſs them as much as you can?

By the force of the true catholic faith, St Antony won upon the fiſhes. Orpheus and Amphion went a little farther, and by the charms of muſic enchanted things merely inanimate. Wonderful both! but neither hiſtory nor fable have ever yet ventured to record an inſtance of any one, who by force of argument and reaſon hath triumphed over habitual avarice.

Mr Nightingale the father, inſtead of attempting to anſwer his brother, contented himſelf with only obſerving, that they had always differed in their ſentiments concerning the education of their children. " I wiſh," ſaid he, " brother, you would have confined your care " to your own daughter, and never have troubled your- " ſelf with my ſon, who hath, I believe, as little pro- " fited by your precepts, as by your example:" for young Nightingale was his uncle's godſon, and had lived more with him than with his father; ſo that the uncle had often declared, he loved his nephew almoſt equally with his own child.

Jones fell into raptures with this good gentleman; and, when after much perſuaſion they found the father grew ſtill more and more irritated inſtead of appeaſed, Jones conducted the uncle to his nephew at the houſe of Mrs Miller.

CHAP. IX.

Containing ſtrange Matters.

AT his return to his lodgings, Jones found the ſituation of affairs greatly altered from what they had been in at his departure. The mother, her two daughters, and young Mr Nightingale, were now ſat down to ſupper together, when the uncle was, at his own deſire, introduced without any ceremony into the company, to all of whom

whom he was well known, for he had ſeveral times viſited his nephew at that houſe.

The old gentleman immediately walked up to Miſs Nancy, ſaluted and wiſhed her joy, as he did afterwards the nephew and the other ſiſter; and, laſtly, he paid the proper compliments to his nephew, with the ſame good humour and courteſy as if his nephew had married his equal or ſuperior in fortune, with all the previous requiſites firſt performed.

Miſs Nancy and her ſuppoſed huſband both turned pale, and looked rather fooliſh than otherwiſe upon the occaſion: but Mrs Miller took the firſt opportunity of withdrawing; and having ſent for Jones into the dining-room, ſhe threw herſelf at his feet, and in a moſt paſſionate flood of tears called him her good angel, the preſerver of her poor little family, with many other reſpectful and endearing appellations, and made him every acknowledgment which the higheſt benefit can extract from the moſt grateful heart.

After the firſt guſt of her paſſion was a little over, which ſhe declared, if ſhe had not vented, would have burſt her, ſhe proceeded to inform Mr Jones, that all matters were ſettled between Mr Nightingale and her daughter, and that they were to be married the next morning: at which Mr Jones having expreſſed much pleaſure, the poor woman fell again into a fit of joy and thankſgiving, which he at length with difficulty ſilenced, and prevailed on her to return with him back to the company, whom they found in the ſame good humour in which they had left them.

This little ſociety now paſſed two or three very agreeable hours together, in which the uncle, who was a very great lover of his bottle, had ſo well plyed his nephew, that this latter, though not drunk, began to be ſomewhat fluſtered; and now Mr Nightingale, taking the old gentleman with him up ſtairs into the apartment he had lately occupied, unboſomed himſelf as follows:

"As you have been always the beſt and kindeſt of "uncles to me, and as you have ſhewn ſuch unparalleled "goodneſs in forgiving this match, which to be ſure

" may be thought a little improvident, I ſhould never " forgive myſelf if I attempted to deceive you in any " thing." He then confeſſed the truth, and opened the whole affair.

" How, Jack!" ſaid the old gentleman, " and are you " really not married to this young woman?"——" No, " upon my honour," anſwered Nightingale, " I have " told you the ſimple truth." " My dear boy, cries the uncle, kiſſing him, " I am heartily glad to hear it. I " never was better pleaſed in my life. If you had been " married, I ſhould have aſſiſted you, as much as was " in my power, to have made the beſt of a bad matter; " but there is a great difference between conſidering a " thing which is already done and irrecoverable, and that " which is yet to do. Let your reaſon have fair play, " Jack, and you will ſee this match in ſo fooliſh and pre- " poſterous a light, that there will be no need of any " diſſuaſive arguments." " How, Sir!" replies young Nightingale, " is there this difference between having " already done an act, and being in honour engaged to " do it?"——" Pugh," ſaid the uncle, " honour is a " creature of the world's making, and the world hath " the power of a creator over it, and may govern and " direct it as they pleaſe. Now you well know how tri- " vial theſe breaches of contract are thought; even the " groſſeſt make but the wonder and converſation of a " day. Is there a man who afterwards will be more " backward in giving you his ſiſter or daughter? or is " there any ſiſter or daughter who would be more back- " ward to receive you? Honour is not concerned in " theſe engagements." " Pardon me, dear Sir," cries Nightingale; " I can never think ſo; and not only ho- " nour, but conſcience and humanity are concerned. I " am well ſatisfied, that, was I now to diſappoint the " young creature, her death would be the conſequence, " and I ſhould look upon myſelf as her murderer, nay, " as her murderer by the cruelleſt of all methods, by " breaking her heart." " Break her heart, indeed! no, " no, Jack," cries the uncle, " the hearts of women are " not ſo ſoon broke; they are tough, boy, they are " tough." " But, Sir," anſwered Nightingale, " my

" own

" own affections are engaged, and I never could be hap-
" py with any other woman. How often have I heard
" you ſay, that children ſhould always be ſuffered to
" chuſe for themſelves, and that you would let my cou-
" ſin Harriet do ſo?" " Why ay," replied the old gen-
tleman, " ſo I would have them; but then I would
" have them chuſe wiſely.————Indeed, Jack, you
" muſt, and ſhall leave this girl."——" Indeed, uncle,"
cries the other, " I muſt and will have her." " You
" will, young gentleman?" ſaid the uncle; " I did not
" expect ſuch a word from you. I ſhould not wonder
" if you had uſed ſuch language to your father, who
" hath always treated you like a dog, and kept you at
" the diſtance which a tyrant preſerves over his ſubjects;
" but I, who have lived with you upon an equal footing,
" might ſurely expect better uſage: but I know how to
" account for it all! it is all owing to your prepoſterous
" education, in which I have had too little ſhare. There
" is my daughter now, whom I have brought up as my
" friend, never doth any thing without my advice, nor
" ever refuſes to take it when I give it her." " You
" have never yet given her advice in an affair of this
" kind," ſaid Nightingale, " for I am greatly miſtaken in
" my couſin, if ſhe would be very ready to obey even
" your moſt poſitive commands in abandoning her in-
" clinations." " Don't abuſe my girl," anſwered the
old gentleman with ſome emotion; " don't abuſe my
" Harriet. I have brought her up to have no inclina-
" tions contrary to my own. By ſuffering her to do
" whatever ſhe pleaſes, I have inured her to a habit of
" being pleaſed to do whatever I like." " Pardon me,
" Sir," ſaid Nightingale, " I have not the leaſt deſign
" to reflect on my couſin, for whom I have the greateſt
" eſteem; and indeed I am convinced you will never
" put her to ſo ſevere a trial, or lay ſuch hard commands
" on her as you would do on me—But, dear Sir, let us
" return to the company; for they will begin to be un-
" eaſy at our long abſence. I muſt beg one favour of
" my dear uncle, which is, that he would not ſay any
" thing to ſhock the poor girl or her mother." " O
" you need not fear me," anſwered he, " I underſtand my-

"ſelf too well to affront women; ſo I will readily grant "you that favour; and in return I muſt expect another of "you." "There are but few of your commands, Sir," ſaid Nightingale, "which I ſhall not very cheerfully o-"bey." Nay, Sir, I aſk nothing," ſaid the uncle, "but "the honour of your company home to my lodging, that "I may reaſon the caſe a little more fully with you: for "I would, if poſſible, have the ſatisfaction of preſerving "my family, notwithſtanding the headſtrong folly of my "brother, who, in his own opinion, is the wiſeſt man in "the world."

Nightingale, who well knew his uncle to be as head-ſtrong as his father, ſubmitted to attend him home, and then they both returned back into the room, where the old gentleman promiſed to carry himſelf with the ſame decorum which he had before maintained.

CHAP. X.

A ſhort Chapter, which concludes the Book.

THE long abſence of the uncle and nephew had occaſioned ſome diſquiet in the minds of all whom they had left behind them; and the more, as during the preceding dialogue, the uncle had more than once elevated his voice, ſo as to be heard down ſtairs, which, though they could not diſtinguiſh what he ſaid, had cauſed ſome evil foreboding in Nancy and her mother, and indeed even in Jones himſelf.

When the good company therefore again aſſembled, there was a viſible alteration in all their faces; and the good humour which at their laſt meeting univerſally ſhone forth in every countenance, was now changed into a much leſs agreeable aſpect. It was a change indeed common enough to the weather in this climate, from ſunſhine to clouds, from June to December.

This alteration was not however greatly remarked by any preſent; for as they were all now endeavouring to conceal their own thoughts, and to act a part, they became all too buſily engaged in the ſcene to be ſpectators of it. Thus neither the uncle nor nephew ſaw any ſymptoms

toms of ſuſpicion in the mother or daughter; nor did the mother or daughter remark the over-acted complaiſance of the old man, nor the counterfeit ſatisfaction which grinned in the features of the young one.

Something like this, I believe frequently happens, where the whole attention of two friends being engaged in the part which each is to act, in order to impoſe on the other, neither ſees nor ſuſpects the art practiſed againſt himſelf; and thus the thruſt of both (to borrow no improper metaphor on the occaſion) alike takes place.

From the ſame reaſon, it is no unuſual thing for both parties to be over-reached in a bargain, though the one muſt be always the greater loſer; as was he who ſold a blind horſe, and received a bad note in payment.

Our company in about half an hour broke up, and the uncle carried off his nephew; but not before the latter had aſſured Miſs Nancy in a whiſper, that he would attend her early in the morning, and fulfil all his engagements.

Jones, who was the leaſt concerned in this ſcene, ſaw the moſt. He did indeed ſuſpect the very fact; for, beſides obſerving the great alteration in the behaviour of the uncle, the diſtance he aſſumed, and his overſtrained civility to Miſs Nancy; the carrying off a bridegroom from his bride at that time of night, was ſo extraordinary a proceeding, that it could be accounted for, only by imagining that young Nightingale had revealed the whole truth, which the apparent openneſs of his temper, and his being fluſtered with liquor, made too probable.

While he was reaſoning with himſelf, whether he ſhould acquaint theſe poor people with his ſuſpicion, the maid of the houſe informed him, that a gentlewoman deſired to ſpeak to him.———He went immediately out, and taking the candle from the maid, uſhered his viſitant up ſtairs, who, in the perſon of Mrs Honour, acquainted him with ſuch dreadful news concerning his Sophia, that he immediately loſt all conſideration for every other perſon; and his whole ſtock of compaſſion was entirely

tirely ſwallowed up in reflections on his own miſery, and on that of his unfortunate angel.

What this dreadful matter was, the reader will be informed, after we have firſt related the many preceding ſteps which produced it, and thoſe will be the ſubject of the following book.

THE

THE HISTORY OF A FOUNDLING.

BOOK XV.

IN WHICH THE HISTORY ADVANCES ABOUT TWO DAYS.

CHAP. I.

Too short to need a Preface.

THERE are a set of religious, or rather moral writers, who teach that virtue is the certain road to happineſs, and vice to miſery, in this world. A very wholeſome and comfortable doctrine, and to which we have but one objection, namely, that it is not true.

Indeed, if by virtue theſe writers mean the exerciſe of thoſe cardinal virtues, which like good houſe-wives ſtay at home, and mind only the buſineſs of their own family, I ſhall very readily concede the point; for ſo ſurely do all theſe contribute and lead to happineſs, that I could almoſt wiſh, in violation of all the ancient and modern ſages, to call them rather by the name of Wiſdom, than by that of Virtue: for with regard to this life, no ſyſtem, I conceive, was ever wiſer than that of the ancient Epicureans, who held this wiſdom to conſtitute the chief good: nor fooliſher than that of their oppoſites, thoſe modern epicures, who place all felicity in the abundant gratification of every ſenſual appetite.

But if by virtue is meant (as I almoſt think it ought) a certain relative quality, which is always buſying itſelf without

without doors, and ſeems as much intereſted in purſuing the good of others as its own; I cannot ſo eaſily agree that this is the ſureſt way to human happineſs; becauſe I am afraid we muſt then include poverty and contempt, with all the miſchiefs which backbiting, envy, and ingratitude can bring on mankind, in our idea of happineſs; nay, ſometimes perhaps we ſhall be obliged to wait upon the ſaid happineſs to a gaol; ſince many by the above virtue have brought themſelves thither.

I have not now leiſure to enter upon ſo large a field, of ſpeculation, as here ſeems opening upon me; my deſign was to wipe off a doctrine that lay in my way; ſince, while Mr Jones was acting the moſt virtuous part imaginable, in labouring to preſerve his fellow-creatures from deſtruction, the devil, or ſome other evil ſpirit, one perhaps clothed in human fleſh, was hard at work to make him completely miſerable in the ruin of his Sophia.

This therefore would ſeem an exception to the above rule, if indeed it was a rule; but as we have in our voyage through life ſeen ſo many other exceptions to it, we chuſe to diſpute the doctrine on which it is founded, which we don't apprehend to be chriſtian, which we are convinced is not true, and which is indeed deſtructive of one of the nobleſt arguments that reaſon alone can furniſh for the belief of immortality.

But as the reader's curioſity (if he hath any) muſt be now awake, and hungry, we ſhall proceed to feed it as faſt as we can.

CHAP. II.

In which is opened a very black deſign againſt Sophia.

I Remember a wiſe old gentleman, who uſed to ſay, "When children are doing nothing, they are doing "miſchief." I will not enlarge this quaint ſaying to the moſt beautiful part of the creation in general; but ſo far I may be allowed, that when the effects of female jealouſy do not appear openly in their proper colours of rage and fury, we may ſuſpect that miſchievous paſſion to be at work privately, and attempting to undermine what it doth not attack above ground.

This

This was exemplified in the conduct of Lady Bellaſton; who, under all the ſmiles which ſhe wore in her countenance, concealed much indignation againſt Sophia; and as ſhe plainly ſaw that this young lady ſtood between her and the full indulgence of her deſires, ſhe reſolved to get rid of her by ſome means or other; nor was it long before a very favourable opportunity of accompliſhing this preſented itſelf to her.

The reader may be pleaſed to remember, that when Sophia was thrown into that conſternation at the play-houſe, by the wit and humour of a ſet of young gentlemen who call themſelves the town, we informed him, that ſhe had put herſelf under the protection of a young nobleman, who had very ſafely conducted her to her chair.

This nobleman, who frequently viſited Lady Bellaſton, had more than once ſeen Sophia there, ſince her arrival in town, and had conceived a very great liking to her; which liking, as beauty never looks more amiable than in diſtreſs, Sophia had in this fright ſo increaſed, that he might now, without any great impropriety, be ſaid to be actually in love with her.

It may eaſily be believed, that he would not ſuffer ſo handſome an occaſion of improving his acquaintance with the beloved object as now offered itſelf to elapſe, when even good breeding alone might have prompted him to pay her a viſit.

The next morning therefore after this accident, he waited on Sophia, with the uſual compliments, and hopes that ſhe had received no harm from her laſt night's adventure.

As love, like fire, when once thoroughly kindled, is ſoon blown into a flame, Sophia in a very ſhort time compleated her conqueſt. Time now fled away unperceived, and the noble lord had been two hours in company with the lady, before it entered into his head that he had made too long a viſit. Though this circumſtance alone would have alarmed Sophia, who was ſomewhat more a miſtreſs of computation at preſent; ſhe had indeed much more pregnant evidence from the eyes of her lover of what paſt within his boſom; nay, though he did

not make any open declaration of his paſſion, yet many of his expreſſions were rather too warm, and too tender, to have been imputed to complaiſance, even in the age when ſuch complaiſance was in faſhion; the very reverſe of which is well known to be the reigning mode at preſent.

Lady Bellaſton had been appriſed of his lordſhip's viſit at his firſt arrival; and the length of it very well ſatisfied her, that things went as ſhe wiſhed, and as indeed ſhe had ſuſpected the ſecond time ſhe ſaw this young couple together. This buſineſs ſhe rightly, I think, concluded, that ſhe ſhould by no means forward by mixing in the company while they were together; ſhe therefore ordered her ſervants, that when my lord was going, they ſhould tell him ſhe deſired to ſpeak with him; and employed the intermediate time in meditating how beſt to accompliſh a ſcheme which ſhe made no doubt but his lordſhip would very readily embrace the execution of.

Lord Fellamar (for that was the title of this young nobleman) was no ſooner introduced to her ladyſhip, than ſhe attacked him in the following ſtrain: "Bleſs me, my "lord, are you here yet? I thought my ſervants had "made a miſtake, and let you go away; and I wanted "to ſee you about an affair of ſome importance."——— "Indeed, Lady Bellaſton," ſaid he, "I don't wonder "you are aſtoniſhed at the length of my viſit: for I "have ſtaid above two hours, and I did not think I had "ſtaid above half a one."——"What am I to conclude "from thence, my lord?" ſaid ſhe: "The company "muſt be very agreeable which can make time ſlide a-"way ſo very deceitfully."——Upon my honour," ſaid he, "the moſt agreeable I ever ſaw. Pray tell me, Lady "Bellaſton, who is this blazing ſtar which you have "produced among us all of a ſudden?"———"What "blazing ſtar, my lord," ſaid ſhe, affecting a ſurpriſe! "I mean," ſaid he, "the lady I ſaw here the other day, "whom I had laſt night in my arms at the play-houſe, "and to whom I have been making that unreaſonable "viſit."——"O, my couſin Weſtern!" ſaid ſhe: "why "that blazing ſtar, my lord, is the daughter of a coun-

"try

" try booby 'ſquire, and hath been in town about a " fortnight for the firſt time."——" Upon my ſoul," ſaid he, " I ſhould ſwear ſhe had been bred up in a court; " for, beſides her beauty, I never ſaw any thing ſo gen- " teel, ſo ſenſible, ſo polite."——" O brave!" cries the lady, " my couſin hath you, I find."——" Upon my " honour," anſwered he, " I wiſh ſhe had; for I am in " love with her to diſtraction."——" Nay, my lord," ſaid ſhe, " it is not wiſhing yourſelf very ill neither; for " ſhe is a very great fortune: I aſſure you ſhe is an only " child, and her father's eſtate is a good 3000l. a-year." " Then I can aſſure you, Madam," anſwered the lord, I " think her the beſt match in England." " Indeed, " my lord," replied ſhe, " if you like her, I heartily " wiſh you had her." " If you think ſo kindly of me, " Madam," ſaid he, " as ſhe is a relation of yours, will " you do me the honour to propoſe it to her father?" " And are you really then in earneſt?" cries the lady with an affected gravity. " I hope, Madam," anſwered he, " you have a better opinion of me, than to imagine I " would jeſt with your ladyſhip in an affair of this kind." " Indeed then," ſaid the lady, " I will moſt readily pro- " poſe your lordſhip to her father; and I can, I believe, " aſſure you of his joyful acceptance of the propoſal; but " there is a bar which I am almoſt aſhamed to mention; " and yet it is one you will never be able to conquer. You " have a rival, my lord, and a rival who, though I bluſh " to name him, neither you, nor all the world, will ever " be able to conquer." " Upon my word, Lady Bella- " ſton," cries he, " you have ſtruck a damp to my heart, " which hath almoſt deprived me of being." " Fie! " my lord," ſaid ſhe, " I ſhould rather hope I had " ſtruck fire into you. A lover, and talk of damps in " your heart! I rather imagined you would have aſked " your rival's name, that you might have immediately " entered the liſts with him." " I promiſe you, Ma- " dam," anſwered he, " there are very few things I would " not undertake for your charming couſin; but pray " who is this happy man?"——" Why he is," ſaid ſhe, " what I am ſorry to ſay moſt happy men with us are,

" one of the loweſt fellows in the world. He is a beg-
" gar, a baſtard, a foundling, a fellow in meaner cir-
" cumſtances than one of your Lordſhip's footmen."—
" And is it poſſible," cried he, " that a young creature
" with ſuch perfections ſhould think of beſtowing her-
" ſelf ſo unworthily!" " Alas! my lord, " anſwered
" ſhe, " conſider the country——The bane of all young
" women is the country. There they learn a ſet of ro-
" mantic notions of love, and I know not what folly,
" which this town and good company can ſcarce eradi-
" cate in a whole winter."——" Indeed, Madam," re-
plied my lord, " your couſin is of too immenſe a value
" to be thrown away: ſuch ruin as this muſt be pre-
" vented." " Alas!" cries ſhe, " my lord, how can it
" be prevented? The family already have done all in
" their power; but the girl is, I think, intoxicated, and
" nothing leſs than ruin will content her: and, to deal
" more openly with you, I expect every day to hear ſhe
" is run away with him." " What you tell me, Lady
" Bellaſton," anſwered his lordſhip, " affects me moſt
" tenderly, and only raiſes my compaſſion, inſtead of
" leſſening my adoration of your couſin. Some means
" muſt be found to preſerve ſo ineſtimable a jewel.
" Hath your ladyſhip endeavoured to reaſon with her?"
Here the lady affected a laugh, and cried, " My dear
" lord, ſure you know us better than to talk of
" reaſoning a young woman out of her inclinations?
" Theſe ineſtimable jewels are as deaf as the jewels you
" wear: time, my lord, time is the only medicine
" to cure their folly; but this is a medicine which
" I am certain ſhe will not take; nay, I live in hourly
" horrors on her account. In ſhort, nothing but vio-
" lent methods will do." " What is to be done?" cries
my lord: " What methods are to be taken?—Is there
" any method upon earth?——Oh! Lady Bellaſton!
" there is nothing which I would not undertake for ſuch
" a reward."——" I really know not," anſwered the la-
dy after a pauſe: and, then pauſing again, ſhe cried out,
——" Upon my ſoul, I am at my wit's end on this girl's
" account.—If ſhe can be preſerved, ſomething muſt be
" done immediately; and, as I ſay nothing but violent
" methods will do.—If your lordſhip hath really this at-

" tachment

"tachment to my couſin, (and to do her juſtice, except "in this ſilly inclination, of which ſhe will ſoon ſee "her folly, ſhe is every way deſerving,) I think there "may be one way; indeed it is a very diſagreeable one, "and what I am almoſt afraid to think of——It re-"quires great ſpirit, I promiſe you."——"I am not "conſcious, Madam," ſaid he, "of any defect there; "nor am I, I hope, ſuſpected of any ſuch. It muſt be an "egregious defect, indeed, which could make me back-"ward on this occaſion." "Nay, my lord," anſwered ſhe, "I am ſo far from doubting you, I am much more "inclined to doubt my own courage; for I muſt run a "monſtrous riſque. In ſhort, I muſt place ſuch a confi-"dence in your honour as a wiſe woman will ſcarce ever "place in a man on any conſideration." In this point likewiſe my lord very well ſatisfied her; for his reputation was extremely clear, and common fame did him no more than juſtice in ſpeaking well of him. "Well then," ſaid ſhe, "my lord,——I——I vow I can't bear the "apprehenſion of it.——No, it muſt not be.———At "leaſt every other method ſhall be tried. Can you get "rid of your engagements, and dine here to-day? Your "lordſhip will have an opportunity of ſeeing a little "more of Miſs Weſtern.——I promiſe you we have no "time to loſe. Here will be nobody but Lady Betty, "and Miſs Eagle, and Colonel Hamſted, and Tom Ed-"wards; they will all go ſoon,—and I ſhall be at home "to nobody. Then your Lordſhip may be a little more "explicit. Nay, I will contrive ſome method to con-"vince you of her attachment to this fellow." My lord made proper compliments, accepted the invitation, and then they parted to dreſs, it being now paſt three in the morning, or, to reckon by the old ſtile, in the after-noon.

CHAP. III.

A further Explanation of the foregoing Deſign.

THOUGH the reader may have long ſince concluded Lady Bellaſton to be a member (and no inconſider-

conſiderable one) of the great world, ſhe was in reality a very conſiderable member of the Little World; by which appellation was diſtinguiſhed a very worthy and honourable ſociety, which not long ſince flouriſhed in this kingdom.

Among other good principles upon which this ſociety was founded, there was one very remarkable; for as it was a rule of an honourable club of heroes, who aſſembled at the cloſe of the late war, that all the members ſhould every day fight once at leaſt, ſo it was in this, that every member ſhould, within the twenty-four hours, tell at leaſt one merry fib, which was to be propagated by all the brethren and ſiſterhood.

Many idle ſtories were told about this ſociety, which, from a certain quality, may be perhaps not unjuſtly ſuppoſed to have come from the ſociety themſelves; as that the Devil was the preſident, and that he ſat in perſon in an elbow-chair at the upper end of the table: but upon very ſtrict inquiry, I find there is not the leaſt truth in any of thoſe tales, and that the aſſembly conſiſted in reality of a ſet of very good ſort of people, and the fibs which they propagated were of a harmleſs kind, and tended only to produce mirth and good humour.

Edwards was likewiſe a member of this comical ſociety. To him therefore Lady Bellaſton applied as a proper inſtrument for her purpoſe, and furniſhed him with a fib, which he was to vent whenever the lady gave him her cue; and this was not to be till the evening, when all the company but Lord Fellamar and himſelf were gone, and while they were engaged in a rubber at whiſt.

To this time then, which was between ſeven and eight in the evening, we will convey our reader; when Lady Bellaſton, Lord Fellamar, Miſs Weſtern, and Tom being engaged at whiſt, and in the laſt game of their rubber, Tom received his cue from Lady Bellaſton, which was, "I proteſt Tom, you are grown intolerable lately: "you uſed to tell us all the news of the town, and "now you know no more of the world than if you lived "out of it."

Mr

Mr Edwards then began as follows: "The fault is not "mine, Madam; it lies in the dulneſs of the age, that "does nothing worth talking of.—O la! though now I "think on't, there hath a terrible accident befallen poor "Colonel Wilcox—Poor Ned.—You know him, my lord, "every body knows him; faith! I am very much con-"cerned for him."

"What is it, pray?" ſays Lady Bellaſton.

"Why, he hath killed a man this morning in a duel, "that's all."

His Lordſhip, who was not in the ſecret, aſked gravely, whom he had killed? To which Edwards anſwered, "A young fellow we none of us know; a Somerſetſhire "lad juſt come to town, one Jones his name is; a near "relation of one Mr Allworthy, of whom your Lord-"ſhip I believe hath heard. I ſaw the lad lie dead in a "coffee-houſe.—Upon my ſoul he is one of the fineſt "corpſes I ever ſaw in my life."

Sophia, who had juſt begun to deal as Tom had mentioned that a man was killed, ſtopt her hand, and liſtened with attention, (for all ſtories of that kind affected her) but no ſooner had he arrived at the latter part of the ſtory, than ſhe began to deal again; and having dealt three cards to one, and ſeven to another, and ten to a third, at laſt dropt the reſt from her hand, and fell back in her chair.

The company behaved as uſually on theſe occaſions. The uſual diſturbance inſued, the uſual aſſiſtance was ſummoned, and Sophia at laſt, as it is uſual, returned again to life, and ſoon after was, at her earneſt deſire, led to her own apartment, where, at my lord's requeſt, lady Bellaſton acquainted her with the truth, attempted to carry it off as a jeſt of her own, and comforted her with repeated aſſurances, that neither his lordſhip nor Tom, though ſhe had taught him the ſtory, were in the true ſecret of the affair.

There was no farther evidence neceſſary to convince Lord Fellamar how juſtly the caſe had been repreſented to him by Lady Bellaſton; and now at her return into the room, a ſcheme was laid between theſe two noble perſons, which, though it appeared in no very heinous light to his lordſhip, (as he faithfully promiſed, and faithfully

fully reſolved too, to make the lady all the ſubſequent amends in his power by marriage; yet many of our readers, we doubt not, will ſee with juſt deteſtation.

The next evening at ſeven was appointed for the fatal purpoſe, when Lady Bellaſton undertook that Sophia ſhould be alone, and his lordſhip ſhould be introduced to her. The whole family were to be regulated for the purpoſe, moſt of the ſervants diſpatched out of the houſe; and for Mrs Honour, who, to prevent the ſuſpicion, was to be left with her miſtreſs till his lordſhip's arrival, Lady Bellaſton herſelf was to engage her in an apartment as diſtant as poſſible from the ſcene of the intended miſchief, and out of the hearing of Sophia.

Matters being thus agreed on, his lordſhip took his leave, and her ladyſhip retired to reſt, highly pleaſed with a project, of which ſhe had no reaſon to doubt the ſucceſs, and which promiſed ſo effectually to remove Sophia from being any future obſtruction to her amour with Jones, by means of which ſhe ſhould never appear to be guilty, even if the fact appeared to the world; but this ſhe made no doubt of preventing by huddling up a marriage, to which ſhe thought the raviſhed Sophia would eaſily be brought to conſent, and at which all the reſt of her family would rejoice.

But affairs were not in ſo quiet a ſituation in the boſom of the other conſpirator: his mind was toſt in all the diſtracting anxiety ſo nobly deſcribed by Shakeſpear:

> Between the acting of a dreadful thing,
> And the firſt motion, all the interim is
> Like a phantaſma, or a hideous dream:
> The genius and the moral inſtruments
> Are then in council; and the ſtate of man,
> Like to a little kingdom, ſuffers then
> The nature of an inſurrection.——

Though the violence of his paſſion had made him eagerly embrace the firſt hint of this deſign, eſpecially as it came from a relation of the lady, yet when that friend to reflection, a pillow, had placed the action itſelf in

in all its natural black colours before his eyes, with all the conſequences which muſt, and thoſe which might probably attend it; his reſolution began to abate, or rather indeed to go over to the other ſide: and after a long conflict, which laſted a whole night between honour and appetite, the former at length prevailed, and he determined to wait on Lady Bellaſton, and to relinquiſh the deſign.

Lady Bellaſton was in bed, though very late in the morning, and Sophia ſitting by her bed-ſide, when the ſervant acquainted her that Lord Fellamar was below in the parlour; upon which her ladyſhip deſired him to ſtay, and that ſhe would ſee him preſently; but the ſervant was no ſooner departed than poor Sophia began to intreat her couſin not to encourage the viſits of that odious lord (ſo ſhe called him, though a little unjuſtly) upon her account. "I ſee his deſign," ſaid ſhe; "for he "made downright love to me yeſterday morning; but as "I am reſolved never to admit of it, I beg your ladyſhip "not to leave us alone together any more, and to order "the ſervants, that, if he inquires for me, I may be al-"ways denied to him."

"La! child," ſays lady Bellaſton, "you country "girls have nothing but ſweet-hearts in your head; you "fancy every man who is civil to you is making love. "He is one of the moſt gallant young fellows about "town, and I am convinced means no more than a lit-"tle gallantry. Makes love to you indeed! I wiſh with "all my heart he would, and you muſt be an arrant mad "woman to refuſe him."

"But as I ſhall certainly be that mad woman," cries Sophia, "I hope his viſits ſhall not be intruded upon "me."

"O child," ſaid Lady Bellaſton, "you need not be "ſo fearful; if you reſolve to run away with that Jones, "I know no perſon who can hinder you."

"Upon my honour, Madam," cries Sophia, "your "ladyſhip injures me. I will never run away with any "man; nor will I ever marry contrary to my father's "inclinations."

"Well, Miſs Weſtern," ſaid the lady, "if you are "not in a humour to ſee company this morning, you

" may retire to your own apartment; for I am not " frightened at his lordſhip, and muſt ſend for him up " into my dreſſing-room."

Sophia thanked her ladyſhip, and withdrew; and preſently afterwards Fellamar was admitted up ſtairs.

CHAP. IV.

By which it will appear how dangerous an Advocate a Lady is, when ſhe applies her Eloquence to an ill purpoſe.

WHEN Lady Bellaſton heard the young lord's ſcruples, ſhe treated him with the ſame diſdain with which one of thoſe ſages of the law, called Newgate ſolicitors, treats the qualms of conſcience in a young witneſs. " My dear lord," ſaid ſhe, " you certainly " want a cordial. I muſt ſend to Lady Edgely for one " of her beſt drams. Fie upon it! have more reſolu- " tion. Are you frightened by the word rape? or are " you apprehenſive?—Well, if the ſtory of Helen was " modern, I ſhould think it unnatural. I mean the be- " haviour of Paris, not the fondneſs of the lady; for all " women love a man of ſpirit. There is another ſtory " of the Sabine ladies,——and that too, I thank heaven, " is very ancient. Your lordſhip, perhaps, will admire " my reading; but I think Mr Hooke tells us, they made " tolerable good wives afterwards. I fancy few of my " married acquaintance were raviſhed by their huſbands." " Nay, dear Lady Bellaſton," cried he, " don't ridicule " me in this manner." " Why, my good lord," anſwered ſhe, " do you think any woman in England would " not laugh at you in her heart, whatever prudery ſhe " might wear in her countenance?——You force me to " uſe a ſtrange kind of language, and to betray my ſex " moſt abominably: but I am contented with knowing " my intentions are good, and that I am endeavouring " to ſerve my couſin; for I think you will make her a " good huſband notwithſtanding this; or, upon my ſoul, " I ſhould not even perſuade her to fling herſelf away " upon an empty title. She ſhould not upbraid me

" hereafter

" hereafter with having loſt a man of ſpirit; for that his " enemies allow this poor young fellow to be."

Let thoſe who have had the ſatisfaction of hearing reflections of this kind from a wife or a miſtreſs, declare whether they are at all ſweetened by coming from a female tongue. Certain it is, they ſunk deeper into his lordſhip than any thing which Demoſthenes or Cicero could have ſaid on the occaſion.

Lady Bellaſton perceiving ſhe had fired the young lord's pride, began now, like a true orator, to rouſe other paſſions to its aſſiſtance. " My lord," ſays ſhe, in a graver voice, " you will be pleaſed to remember, you " mentioned this matter to me firſt; for I would not " appear to you in the light of one who is endeavouring " to put off my couſin upon you. Fourſcore thouſand " pounds do not ſtand in need of an advocate to recommend them." " Nor doth Miſs Weſtern," ſaid he, " require any recommendation from her fortune; for " in my opinion, no woman ever had half her charms." " Yes, yes, my lord," replied the lady, looking in the glaſs, " there have been women with more than half her " charms, I aſſure you; not that I need leſſen her on " that account: ſhe is a moſt delicious girl, that's certain; and within theſe few hours ſhe will be in the " arms of one, who ſurely doth not deſerve her, though " I will give him his due, I believe he is truly a man of " ſpirit."

" I hope ſo, Madam," ſaid my lord; " though I muſt " own he doth not deſerve her; for unleſs heaven, or " your ladyſhip diſappoint me, ſhe ſhall within that time " be in mine."

" Well ſpoken, my lord, " anſwered the lady, " I " promiſe you no diſappointment ſhall happen from my " ſide; and within this week I am convinced I ſhall " call your lordſhip my couſin in public."

The remainder of the ſcene conſiſted entirely of raptures, excuſes, and compliments, very pleaſant to have heard from the parties; but rather dull when related at ſecond hand. Here, therefore, we ſhall put an end to this dialogue, and haſten to the fatal hour, when eve-

ry thing was prepared for the deſtruction of poor Sophia.

But this being the moſt tragical part of our whole hiſtory, we ſhall treat it in a chapter by itſelf.

CHAP. V.

Containing ſome matters which may affect, and others which may ſurpriſe the Reader.

THE clock had now ſtruck ſeven, and poor Sophia, alone and melancholy, ſat reading a tragedy. It was the Fatal Marriage; and ſhe was now come to that part where the poor diſtreſt Iſabella diſpoſes of her wedding-ring.

Here the book dropt from her hand, and a ſhower of tears ran down into her boſom. In this ſituation ſhe had continued a minute, when the door opened, and in came Lord Fellamar. Sophia ſtarted from her chair at his entrance; and his lordſhip advancing forwards, and making a low bow, ſaid, "I am afraid, Miſs Weſtern, I break in "upon you abruptly." "Indeed, my Lord," ſays ſhe, "I "muſt own myſelf a little ſurpriſed at this unexpected viſit." "If this viſit be unexpected, Madam," anſwered Lord Fellamar, "my eyes muſt have been very faithleſs interpreters of "my heart, when laſt I had the honour of ſeeing you: for "ſurely you could not otherwiſe have hoped to detain my "heart in your poſſeſſion, without receiving a viſit from "its owner." Sophia, confuſed as ſhe was, anſwered this bombaſt, (and very properly I think) with a look of inconceivable diſdain. My lord then made another and a longer ſpeech of the ſame ſort. Upon which Sophia, trembling, ſaid, "Am I really to conceive your lordſhip "to be out of your ſenſes? Sure, my lord, there is no "other excuſe for ſuch behaviour.——" I am, indeed, "Madam, in the ſituation you ſuppoſe," cries his lordſhip; "and ſure you will pardon the effects of a frenzy which you yourſelf have occaſioned: for love hath "ſo totally deprived me of reaſon, that I am ſcarce accountable for any of my actions." "Upon my word, "my lord," ſaid Sophia, "I neither underſtand your

"words

" words nor your behaviour."——" Suffer me then, " Madam," cries he, " at your feet to explain both, by " laying open my ſoul to you, and declaring that I doat " on you to the higheſt degree of diſtraction. O moſt " adorable, moſt divine creature! what language can ex- " preſs the ſentiments of my heart?" " I do aſſure " you, my lord," ſaid Sophia, " I ſhall not ſtay to hear " any more of this." " Do not," cries he, " think of " leaving me thus cruelly: could you know half the tor- " ments which I feel, that tender boſom muſt pity what " thoſe eyes have cauſed." Then fetching a deep ſigh, and laying hold of her hand, he ran on for ſome minutes in a ſtrain which would be little more pleaſing to the reader than it was to the lady; and at laſt concluded with a declaration, " That if he was maſter of the world, he " would lay it at her feet." Sophia then forcibly pull- ing away her hand from his, anſwered with much ſpirit, " I promiſe you, Sir, your world and its maſter, I ſhould " ſpurn from me with equal contempt." She then offer- ed to go, and Lord Fellamar again laying hold of her hand, ſaid, " Pardon me, my beloved angel, freedoms " which nothing but deſpair could have tempted me to " take.——Believe me, could I have had any hope that " my title and fortune, neither of them inconſiderable, " unleſs when compared with your worth, would have " been accepted, I had in the humbleſt manner preſent- " ed them to your acceptance.——But I cannot loſe you. " —By heaven, I will ſooner part with my ſoul.—You " are, you muſt, you ſhall be only mine." " My lord," ſays ſhe, " I intreat you to deſiſt from a vain purſuit; " for, upon my honour, I will never hear you on this ſub- " ject. Let go my hand, my lord; for I am reſolved to " go from you this moment; nor will I ever ſee you " more." " Then, Madam," cries his lordſhip, " I " muſt make the beſt uſe of this moment; for I cannot " live, nor will I live without you." ——" What do you " mean, my lord?" ſaid Sophia; " I will raiſe the fami- " ly." " I have no fear, Madam," anſwered he, " but " of loſing you, and that I am reſolved to prevent, the " only way which deſpair points to me."——He then caught her in his arms: upon which ſhe ſcreamed ſo loud,

loud, that ſhe muſt have alarmed ſome one to her aſſiſtance, had not lady Bellaſton taken care to remove all ears.

But a more lucky circumſtance happened for poor Sophia: another noiſe now broke forth, which almoſt drowned her cries; for now the whole houſe rang with, "Where is ſhe? D——n me, I'll unkennel her this inſtant. Shew me her chamber, I ſay. Where is my daughter? I know ſhe's in the houſe, and I'll ſee her if ſhe's above ground. Shew me where ſhe is."—At which laſt words the door flew open, and in came 'Squire Weſtern, with his parſon, and a ſet of myrmidons at his heels.

How miſerable muſt have been the condition of poor Sophia, when the enraged voice of her father was welcome to her ears! Welcome indeed it was, and luckily did he come; for it was the only accident upon earth which could have preſerved the peace of her mind from being for ever deſtroyed.

Sophia, notwithſtanding her fright, preſently knew her father's voice; and his lordſhip, notwithſtanding his paſſion, knew the voice of reaſon, which peremptorily aſſured him, it was not now a time for the perpetration of his villany. Hearing, therefore, the voice approach, and hearing likewiſe whoſe it was; (for as the 'ſquire more than once roared forth the word Daughter, ſo Sophia, in the midſt of her ſtruggling, cried out upon her father;) he thought proper to relinquiſh his prey, having only diſordered her handkerchief, and with his rude lips committed violence on her lovely neck.

If the reader's imagination doth not aſſiſt me, I ſhall never be able to deſcribe the ſituation of theſe two perſons when Weſtern came into the room. Sophia tottered into her chair, where ſhe ſat diſordered, pale, breathleſs, burſting with indignation at Lord Fellamar, affrighted, and yet more rejoiced at the arrival of her father.

His Lordſhip ſat down near her, with the bag of his wig hanging over one of his ſhoulders, the reſt of his dreſs being ſomewhat diſordered, and rather a greater proportion of linen than is uſual appearing at his boſom.

As

As to the reſt, he was amazed, affrighted, vexed, and aſhamed.

As to 'Squire Weſtern, he happened at this time to be overtaken by an enemy, which very frequently purſues, and ſeldom fails to overtake moſt of the country-gentlemen in this kingdom. He was, literally ſpeaking, drunk; which circumſtance, together with his natural impetuoſity, could produce no other effect, than his running immediately up to his daughter, upon whom he fell foul with his tongue in the moſt inveterate manner; nay, he had probably committed violence with his hands, had not the parſon interpoſed, ſaying, "For Heaven's ſake, Sir, "animadvert that you are in the houſe of a great lady. "Let me beg you to mitigate your wrath; it ſhould mi- "niſter a fulneſs of ſatisfaction that you have found your "daughter; for, as to revenge, it belongeth not unto "us. I diſcern great contrition in the countenance of "the young lady. I ſtand aſſured, if you will forgive "her, ſhe will repent her of all paſt offences, and return "unto her duty."

The ſtrength of the parſon's arms had at firſt been of more ſervice than the ſtrength of his rhetoric. However, his laſt words wrought ſome effect, and the 'ſquire anſwered, "I'll forgee her if ſhe will ha un. If wot ha "un, Sophy, I'll forgee thee all. Why duſt unt ſpeak? "Shat ha un? d—n me, ſhat ha un? Why doſt unt "anſwer? Was ever ſuch a ſtubborn tuoad?"

"Let me intreat you, Sir, to be a little more mode- "rate," ſaid the parſon; "you frighten the young lady "ſo, that you deprive her of all power of utterance."

"Power of mine a—," anſwered the 'ſquire. "You "take her part, then, you do? A pretty parſon truly, "to ſide with an undutiful child. Yes, yes, I will gee "you a living with a pox. I'll gee un to the Devil "ſooner."

"I humbly crave your pardon," ſaid the parſon; "I "aſſure your worſhip, I meant no ſuch matter."

My Lady Bellaſton now entered the room, and came up to the 'ſquire, who no ſooner ſaw her, than, reſolving to follow the inſtructions of his ſiſter, he made her a very civil bow in the rural manner, and paid her ſome of

of his beſt compliments. He then immediately proceeded to his complaints, and ſaid, "There, my lady-cou-
"ſin; there ſtands the moſt undutiful child in the
"world: ſhe hankers after a beggarly raſcal, and won't
"marry one of the greateſt matches in all England, that
"we have provided for her."

"Indeed, couſin Weſtern," anſwered the lady, "I
"am perſuaded you wrong my couſin. I am ſure ſhe
"hath a better underſtanding. I am convinced ſhe will
"not refuſe what ſhe muſt be ſenſible is ſo much to her
"advantage."

This was a wilful miſtake in Lady Bellaſton; for ſhe well knew whom Mr Weſtern meant, though perhaps ſhe thought he would eaſily be reconciled to his Lordſhip's propoſals.

"Do you hear there," quoth the 'ſquire, "what her
"Ladyſhip ſays? All your family are for the match.
"Come, Sophy, be a good girl, and be dutiful, and
"make your father happy."

"If my death will make you happy, Sir," anſwered Sophia, "you will ſhortly be ſo."

"It's a lie, Sophy; it's a d——n'd lie, and you
"know it," ſaid the 'ſquire.

"Indeed, Miſs Weſtern," ſaid Lady Bellaſton, "you
"injure your father; he hath nothing in view but your
"intereſt in this match; and I and all your friends muſt
"acknowledge the higheſt honour done to your family
"in the propoſal."

"Ay, all of us," quoth the 'ſquire, "nay, it was no
"propoſal of mine. She knows it was her aunt pro-
"poſed it to me firſt.—Come, Sophy, once more let
"me beg you to be a good girl, and gee me your con-
"ſent before your couſin."

"Let me give him your hand, couſin," ſaid the Lady. "It is the faſhion now-a-days to diſpenſe with time
"and long courtſhips."

"Pugh," ſaid the 'ſquire, "what ſignifies time;
"wont they have time enough to court afterwards? Peo-
"ple may court very well after they have been a-bed
"together."

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"propoſal of mine. She knows it was her aunt pro-
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"me beg you to be a good girl, and ſee me your con-
"feſſor before your coufin."

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dy. "It is the fafhion now always to difpenſe with this
"and long courtſhips."

"Pugh," ſaid the Squire, "what ſignifies time?
"men may come very well after they have been a-bed
"together."

V. 3 p. 121.

Rowlandson invt et fecit

As Lord Fellamar was very well aſſured that he was meant by Lady Bellaſton, ſo, never having heard nor ſuſpected a word of Blifil, he made no doubt of his being meant by the father. Coming up therefore to the 'ſquire, he ſaid, "Though I have not the honour, Sir, "of being perſonally known to you, yet, as I find I "have the happineſs to have my propoſals accepted, let "me intercede, Sir, in behalf of the young lady, that "ſhe may not be more ſolicited at this time."

"You intercede, Sir!" ſaid the ſquire, "Why, who "the devil are you?"

"Sir, I am Lord Fellamar," anſwered he, "and am "the happy man, whom I hope you have done the ho-"nour of accepting for a ſon-in-law."

"You are a ſon of a b——," replied the Squire, for "all your laced coat. You my ſon-in-law, and be "d—n'd to you!"

"I ſhall take more from you, Sir, than from any "man," anſwered the Lord; "but I muſt inform you, "that I am not uſed to hear ſuch language without re-"ſentment."

"Reſent my a——," quoth the 'ſquire. "Don't "think I am afraid of ſuch a fellow as thee art, becauſe "haſt got a ſpit there dangling at thy ſide! Lay by your "ſpit, and I'll give thee enough of meddling with what "doth not belong to thee.——I'll teach you to father-"in-law me. I'll lick thy jacket."

"It's very well, Sir," ſaid my Lord, "I ſhall make no "diſturbance before the ladies. I am very well ſatisfied. "Your humble ſervant, Sir; Lady Bellaſton, your moſt "obedient."

His lordſhip was no ſooner gone, than Lady Bellaſton, coming up to Mr Weſtern, ſaid, "Bleſs me, Sir, what have "you done? You know not whom you have affronted; "he is a nobleman of the firſt rank and fortune, and "yeſterday made propoſals to your daughter, and ſuch "as I am ſure you muſt accept with the higheſt plea-"ſure."

"Anſwer for yourſelf, lady couſin," ſaid the 'ſquire, "I will have nothing to do with any of your lords. My "daughter ſhall have an honeſt country-gentleman; I

"have pitched upon one for her——and ſhe ſhall ha "un.—I am ſorry for the trouble ſhe hath given your "ladyſhip with all my heart." Lady Bellaſton made a civil ſpeech upon the word trouble, to which the 'ſquire anſwered, "Why, that's kind,—and I would do as much "for your ladyſhip. To be ſure, relations ſhould do for "one another. So I wiſh your ladyſhip a good night."— "Come, Madam, you muſt go along with me by fair "means, or I'll have you carried down to the coach."

Sophia ſaid ſhe would attend him without force, but begged to go in a chair; for ſhe ſaid ſhe ſhould not be able to ride any other way.

"Prithee," cries the 'ſquire, "won't unt perſuade me "can'ſt not ride in a coach, wouldſt? That's a pretty "thing, ſurely. No, no, I'll never let thee out of my "ſight any more till art married; that I promiſe thee." Sophia told him, ſhe ſaw he was reſolved to break her heart. "O break thy heart and be d——n'd," quoth he, "if a good huſband will break it. I don't value a "braſs varden, not a halfpenny of any undutiful b—— "upon earth." He then took violently hold of her hand; upon which the parſon once more interfered, begging him to uſe gentle methods. At that the 'ſquire thundered out a curſe, and bid the parſon hold his tongue, ſaying, "At'n't in pulpit now; when art a got up there, "I never mind what doſt ſay; but I won't be prieſt-ridden, nor taught how to behave myſelf by thee. I wiſh "your ladyſhip a good-night. Come along, Sophy; be "a good girl, and all ſhall be well. Shat ha un, d—n "me, ſhat ha un."

Mrs Honour appeared below ſtairs, and with a low curteſy to the 'ſquire, offered to attend her miſtreſs; but he puſhed her away, ſaying, "Hold, Madam, hold, "you come no more near my houſe." "And will you "take my maid away from me?" ſaid Sophia. "Yes, "indeed, Madam, will I," cries the 'ſquire; "you need "not fear being without a ſervant; I will get you ano-"ther maid, and a better maid than this, who, I'd lay "five pounds to a crown, is no more a maid than my "grannum. No, no, Sophy, ſhe ſhall contrive no more "eſcapes, I promiſe you." He then packed up his daughter

daughter and the parſon into the hackney-coach, after which he mounted himſelf, and ordered it to drive to his lodgings. In the way thither he ſuffered Sophia to be quiet, and entertained himſelf with reading a lecture to the parſon on good manners, and a proper behaviour to his betters.

It is poſſible he might not ſo eaſily have carried off his daughter from Lady Bellaſton, had that good lady deſired to have detained her; but, in reality, ſhe was not a little pleaſed with the confinement into which Sophia was going: and as her project with Lord Fellamar had failed of ſucceſs, ſhe was well contented that other violent methods were now going to be uſed in favour of another man.

CHAP. VI.

By what means the 'ſquire came to diſcover his daughter.

THOUGH the reader in many hiſtories is obliged to digeſt much more unaccountable appearances than than this of Mr Weſtern, without any ſatisfaction at all; yet, as we dearly love to oblige him whenever it is in our power, we ſhall now proceed to ſhew by what method the 'ſquire diſcovered where his daughter was.

In the third chapter then of the preceding book, we gave a hint (for it is not our cuſtom to unfold at any time more than is neceſſary for the occaſion) that Mrs Fitzpatrick, who was very deſirous of reconciling herſelf to her uncle and aunt Weſtern, thought ſhe had a probable opportunity, by the ſervice of preſerving Sophia from committing the ſame crime which had drawn on herſelf the anger of the family. After much deliberation, therefore, ſhe reſolved to inform her aunt Weſtern where her couſin was, and accordingly ſhe writ the following letter, which we ſhall give the reader at length, for more reaſons than one.

"HONOURED MADAM,

"The occaſion of my writing this will perhaps make "a letter of mine agreeable to my dear aunt, for the

" ſake of one of her nieces, though I have little reaſon
" to hope it will be ſo on the account of another.

" Without more apology, as I was coming to throw
" my unhappy ſelf at your feet, I met, by the ſtrangeſt
" accident in the world, my couſin Sophy, whoſe hiſto-
" ry you are better acquainted with than myſelf, though,
" alas! I know infinitely too much; enough indeed to
" ſatisfy me, that unleſs ſhe is immediately prevented,
" ſhe is in danger of running into the ſame fatal miſchief,
" which, by fooliſhly and ignorantly refuſing your moſt
" wiſe and prudent advice, I have unfortunately brought
" on myſelf.

" In ſhort, I have ſeen the man, nay, I was moſt
" part of yeſterday in his company, and a charming
" young fellow I promiſe you he is. By what accident
" he came acquainted with me is too tedious to tell you
" now; but I have this morning changed my lodgings
" to avoid him, leſt he ſhould by my means diſcover my
" couſin; for he doth not yet know where ſhe is, and it
" is adviſeable he ſhould not, till my uncle hath ſecured
" her.——No time, therefore, is to be loſt; and I need
" only inform you, that ſhe is now with Lady Bellaſton,
" whom I have ſeen, and who hath, I find, a deſign of
" concealing her from her family. You know, Madam,
" ſhe is a ſtrange woman; but nothing could miſbecome
" me more, than to preſume to give any hint to one of
" your great underſtanding, and great knowledge of the
" world, beſides barely informing you of the matter of fact.

" I hope, Madam, the care which I have ſhewn on
" this occaſion for the good of my family, will recom-
" mend me again to the favour of a lady who hath al-
" ways exerted ſo much zeal for the honour and true
" intereſt of us all; and that it may be a means of re-
" ſtoring me to your friendſhip, which hath made ſo
" great a part of my former, and is ſo neceſſary to my
" future happineſs. I am,

" With the utmoſt reſpect,
" honoured Madam,
" your dutiful and obliged niece,
" and moſt obedient humble ſervant,
" Harriet Fitzpatrick."

Mrs

Mrs Weſtern was now at her brother's houſe, where ſhe had reſided ever ſince the flight of Sophia, in order to adminiſter comfort to the poor 'ſquire in his affliction. Of this comfort, which ſhe doled out to him in daily proportions, we have formerly given a ſpecimen.

She was now ſtanding with her back to the fire, and, with a pinch of ſnuff in her hand, was dealing forth this daily allowance of comfort to the 'ſquire, while he ſmoked his afternoon pipe, when ſhe received the above letter; which ſhe had no ſooner read, than ſhe delivered it to him, ſaying, "There, Sir, there is an account of "your loſt ſheep. Fortune hath again reſtored her to "you, and if you will be governed by my advice, it is "poſſible you may yet preſerve her."

The 'ſquire had no ſooner read the letter than he leaped from his chair, threw his pipe into the fire, and gave a loud huzza for joy. He then ſummoned his ſervants, called for his boots, and ordered the Chevalier and ſeveral other horſes to be ſaddled, and that parſon Supple ſhould be immediately ſent for. Having done this, he turned to his ſiſter, caught her in his arms, and gave her a cloſe embrace, ſaying, "Zounds! you don't ſeem "pleaſed; one would imagine you was ſorry I have found "the girl."

"Brother," anſwered ſhe, "the deepeſt politicians, "who ſee to the bottom, diſcover often a very different "aſpect of affairs, from what ſwims on the ſurface. It "is true, indeed, things do look rather leſs deſperate "than they did formerly in Holland, when Lewis the "Fourteenth was at the gates of Amſterdam; but there "is a delicacy required in this matter, which you will "pardon me, brother, if I ſuſpect you want.—There is "a decorum to be uſed with a woman of figure, ſuch as "Lady Bellaſton, brother, which requires a knowledge "of the world, ſuperior, I am afraid to your's."

"Siſter," cries the 'ſquire, "I know you have no "opinion of my parts; but I'll ſhew you on this occa-"ſion who is a fool. Knowledge, quotha! I have not "been in the country ſo long without having ſome know-"ledge of warrants and the law of the land. I know I "may take my own wherever I can find it. Shew me

"my

" my own daughter, and if I don't know how to come " at her, I'll ſuffer you to call me fool as long as I live. " There be juſtices of peace in London as well as in " other places."

" I proteſt," cries ſhe, " you make me tremble for " the event of this matter, which, if you will proceed by " my advice, you may bring to ſo good an iſſue. Do " you really imagine, brother, that the houſe of a wo- " man of figure is to be attacked by warrants and brutal " juſtices of the peace? I will inform you how to pro- " ceed. As ſoon as you arrive in town, and have got " yourſelf into a decent dreſs (for indeed, brother, you " have none at preſent fit to appear in) you muſt ſend " your compliments to Lady Bellaſton, and deſire leave " to wait on her. When you are admitted to her pre- " ſence, as you certainly will be, and have told her your " ſtory, and have made proper uſe of my name, (for I " think you only juſt know one another by ſight, though " you are relations), I am confident ſhe will withdraw " her protection from my niece, who hath certainly im- " poſed upon her. This is the only method.—Juſtices " of peace, indeed! do you imagine any ſuch event can " arrive to a woman of figure in a civilized nation?"

" D——n their figures," cries the 'ſquire; " a pretty " civilized nation, truly, where women are above the " law. And what muſt I ſtand ſending a parcel of com- " pliments to a confounded whore, that keeps away a " daughter from her own natural father? I tell you, " ſiſter, I am not ſo ignorant as you think me.——I " know you would have women above the law, but it is " all a lie; I heard his Lordſhip ſay at a Size, that no " one is above the law. But this of yours is Hanover " law, I ſuppoſe."

" Mr Weſtern," ſaid ſhe, " I think you daily im- " prove in ignorance———I proteſt you are grown an " arrant bear."

" No more a bear than yourſelf, ſiſter Weſtern," ſaid the 'ſquire.—" Pox! you may talk of your civility an you " will. I am ſure you never ſhew any to me. I am no " bear, no, nor no dog neither, though I know ſome- " body that is ſomething that begins with a B; but

" pox!

" pox! I will ſhew you I have got more good manners " than ſome folks."

" Mr Weſtern," anſwered the lady, " you may ſay " what you pleaſe. *Je vous mepriſe de tout mon cœur.* " I ſhall not therefore be angry——Beſides, as my " couſin, with that odious Iriſh name, juſtly ſays, I have " that regard for the honour and true intereſt of my fa- " mily, and that concern for my niece, who is a part of " it, that I have reſolved to go to town myſelf upon this " occaſion; for indeed, indeed, brother, you are not a " fit miniſter to be employed at a polite court.—Green- " land—Greendland ſhould always be the ſcene of the " tramontane negociation."

" I thank heaven," cries the 'ſquire, " I don't un- " derſtand you now. You are got to your Hanoverian " linguo. However, I'll ſhew you I ſcorn to be behind- " hand in civility with you; and as you are not angry " for what I have ſaid, ſo I am not angry for what you " have ſaid. Indeed, I have always thought it a folly " for relations to quarrel; and if they do now and then " give a haſty word, why people ſhould give and take: " for my part, I never bear malice; and I take it very " kind of you to go up to London; for I never was there " but twice in my life, and then I did not ſtay above a " fortnight at a time, and to be ſure I can't be expected " to know much of the ſtreets and the folks in that time. " I never denied that you know'd all theſe matters bet- " ter than I. For me to diſpute that would be all as " one, as for you to diſpute the management of a pack " of dogs, or the finding a hare ſitting with me."— " Which I promiſe you," ſays ſhe, " I never will."— " Well, and I promiſe you," returned he, " that I ne- " ver will diſpute t'other."

Here then a league was ſtruck (to borrow a phraſe from the lady) between the contending parties; and now the parſon arriving, and the horſes being ready, the 'ſquire departed, having promiſed his ſiſter to follow her advice, and ſhe prepared to follow him the next day.

But having communicated theſe matters to the parſon on the road, they both agreed that the preſcribed formalities

lities might very well be diſpenſed with;' and the 'ſquire having changed his mind, proceeded in the manner we have already ſeen.

CHAP. VII.

In which various misfortunes befel poor Jones.

AFFAIRS were in the aforeſaid ſituation when Mrs Honour arrived at Mrs Miller's, and called Jones out from the company, as we have before ſeen, with whom, when ſhe found herſelf alone, ſhe began as follows:

"O my dear Sir, how ſhall I get ſpirits to tell you; "you are undone, Sir, and my poor lady's undone, and "I am undone." "Hath any thing happened to So- "phia? cries Jones, ſtaring like a madman. "All "that is bad," cries Honour! "O I ſhall never get ſuch "another lady! O that I ſhould ever live to ſee this "day!" At theſe words Jones turned pale as aſhes, trembled and ſtammered; but Honour went on. "O, "Mr Jones, I have loſt my lady for ever." "How! "what! for heaven's ſake tell me.——O my dear So- "phia!"—"You may well call her ſo," ſaid Honour; "ſhe was the deareſt lady to me.——I ſhall never have "ſuch another place."——"D—n your place," cries Jones; "where is? what! what is become of my So- "phia?" "Ay, to be ſure," cries ſhe, "ſervants may be "d—n'd. It ſignifies nothing what becomes of them, "though they are turned away, and ruined ever ſo much. "To be ſure they are not fleſh and blood like other "people. No, to be ſure it ſignifies nothing what be- "comes of them."——"If you have any pity, any com- "paſſion," cries Jones, "I beg you will inſtantly tell "me what hath happened to Sophia?" "To be ſure I "have more pity for you than you have for me," an- "ſwered Honour; "I don't damn you becauſe you have "loſt the ſweeteſt lady in the world. To be ſure you "are worthy to be pitied, and I am worthy to be pitied "too; for to be ſure if ever there was a good miſtreſs—" "What hath happened?" cries Jones, in almoſt a raving "fit.

" fit.——" What?——What?"—ſaid Honour; " why " the worſt that could have happened both for you and " me.——Her father is come to town, and hath carried " her away from us both." Here Jones fell on his knees in thankſgiving that it was no worſe.—" No worſe!" repeated Honour, " what could be worſe for either of " us? He carried her off, ſwearing ſhe ſhould marry " Mr Blifil; that's for your comfort: and for poor me, " I am turned out of doors." " Indeed, Mrs Honour," anſwered Jones, " you frightened me out of my wits; I " imagined ſome moſt dreadful ſudden accident had hap- " pened to Sophia; ſomething compared to which, even " the ſeeing her married to Blifil would be a trifle; but " while there is life, there are hopes, my dear Honour. " Women in this land of liberty cannot be married by " actual brutal force." " To be ſure, Sir," ſaid ſhe, " that's true. There may be ſome hopes for you; but a- " lack a-day! what hopes are there for poor me? and " to be ſure, Sir, you muſt be ſenſible I ſuffer all this " on your account. All the quarrel the 'ſquire hath " to me is for taking your part, as I have done againſt " Mr Blifil." " Indeed Mrs Honour," " anſwered he, " I am ſenſible of my obligations to you, and will leave " nothing in my power undone to make you amends." " Alas, Sir," ſaid ſhe, " what can make a ſervant amends " for the loſs of one place, but the getting another al- " together as good!"—" Do not deſpair, Mrs Honour," ſaid Jones, " I hope to reinſtate you again in the ſame." " Alack a day, Sir," ſaid ſhe, " how can I flatter myſelf " with ſuch hopes, when I know it is a thing impoſſible; " for the 'ſquire is ſo ſet againſt me: and yet, if you " ſhould ever have my lady, as to be ſure I now hopes " heartily you will; for you are a generous good-na- " tured gentleman, and I am ſure you loves her, and to " be ſure ſhe loves you as dearly as her own ſoul; it is a " matter in vain to deny it; becauſe as why, everybody " that is in the leaſt acquainted with my lady muſt " ſee it; for, poor dear lady, ſhe can't diſſemble; and " if two people who loves one another a'n't happy, why, " who ſhould be ſo? Happineſs don't always depend " upon what people has; beſides, my lady has enough for

" both. To be ſure, therefore, as one may ſay, it would " be all the pity in the world to keep two ſuch lovers " aſunder; nay, I am convinced for my part, you will " meet together at laſt; for if it is to be, there is no pre- " venting it. If a marriage is made in heaven, all the " juſtices of peace upon earth can't break it off. To be " ſure I wiſhes that Parſon Supple had but a little more " ſpirit to tell the 'ſquire of his wickedneſs in endeavouring " to force his daughter contrary to her liking; but then " his whole dependence is on the 'ſquire, and ſo the poor " gentleman, though he is a very religious good ſort of " man, and talks of the badneſs of ſuch doings behind the " 'ſquire's back, yet he dares not ſay his ſoul is his own to " his face. To be ſure I never ſaw him make ſo bold as " juſt now; I was afeard the 'ſquire would have ſtruck " him.—I would not have your honour be melancholy, " Sir, nor deſpair; things may go better, as long as you " are ſure of my lady, and that I am certain you may be; " for ſhe never will be brought to conſent to marry any " other man. Indeed I am terribly afeard the 'ſquire " will do her a miſchief in his paſſion; for he is a pro- " digious paſſionate gentleman, and I am afeard too the " lady will be brough to break her heart; for ſhe is as " tender-hearted as a chicken; it is pity, methinks, ſhe " had not a little of my courage. If I was in love with " a young man, and my father offered to lock me up, " I'd tear his eyes out but I'd come at him; but then " there's a great fortune in the caſe, which it is in her " father's power either to give her or not; that, to be " ſure, may make ſome difference."

Whether Jones gave ſtrict attention to all the foregoing harangue, or whether it was for want of any vacancy in the diſcourſe, I cannot determine; but he never once attempted to anſwer, nor did ſhe once ſtop till Partridge came running into the room, and informed him that the great lady was upon the ſtairs.

Nothing could equal the dilemma to which Jones was now reduced. Honour knew nothing of any acquaintance that ſubſiſted between him and Lady Bellaſton, and ſhe was almoſt the laſt perſon in the world to whom he would have communicated it. In this hurry and diſtreſs, he

he took (as is common enough) the worſt courſe, and inſtead of expoſing her to the lady, which would have been of little conſequence, he choſe to expoſe the lady to her; he therefore reſolved to hide Honour, whom he had but juſt time to convey behind the bed, and to draw the curtains.

The hurry in which Jones had been all day engaged on account of his poor landlady and her family, the terrors occaſioned by Mrs. Honour, and the confuſion into which he was thrown by the ſudden arrival of Lady Bellaſton, had altogether driven former thoughts out of his head; ſo that it never once occurred to his memory to act the part of a ſick man, which indeed neither the gaiety of his dreſs, nor the freſhneſs of his countenance, would have at all ſupported.

He received her ladyſhip therefore rather agreeably to her deſires, than to her expectations, with all the good-humour he could muſter in his countenance, and without any real or affected appearance of the leaſt diſorder.

Lady Bellaſton no ſooner entered the room, than ſhe ſquatted herſelf down on the bed: "So, my dear Jones," ſaid ſhe, "you find nothing can detain me long from "you. Perhaps I ought to be angry with you, that I "have neither ſeen nor heard from you all day; for I "perceive your diſtemper would have ſuffered you to "come abroad: nay, I ſuppoſe you have not ſat in your "chamber all day dreſt up like a fine lady to ſee com-"pany after a lying in; but however don't think I in-"tend to ſcold you; for I never will give you an excuſe "for the cold behaviour of a huſband, by putting on the "ill humour of a wife."

"Nay, Lady Bellaſton," ſaid Jones, "I am ſure your "ladyſhip will not upbraid me with neglect of duty, when "I only waited for orders. Who, my dear creature, hath "reaſon to complain? Who miſſed an appointment "laſt night, and left an unhappy man to expect and wiſh, "and ſigh, and languiſh?"

"Do not mention it, my dear Jones," cried ſhe; "if "you knew the occaſion, you would pity me. In ſhort, "it is impoſſible to conceive what women of condition "are obliged to ſuffer from the impertinence of fools, in

" order to keep up the farce of the world. I am glad, " however, all your languiſhing and wiſhing have done " you no harm; for you never looked better in your " life. Upon my faith! Jones, you might at this inſtant " ſit for the picture of Adonis."

There are certain words of provocation, which men of honour hold can only properly be anſwered by a blow. Among lovers poſſibly there may be ſome expreſſions, which can only be anſwered by a kiſs. The compliment which Lady Bellaſton now made Jones, ſeems to be of this kind, eſpecially as it was attended with a look, in which the lady conveyed more ſoft ideas than it was poſſible to expreſs with her tongue.

Jones was certainly at this inſtant in one of the moſt diſagreeable and diſtreſſed ſituations imaginable; for, to carry on the compariſon we made uſe of before, though the provocation was given by the lady, Jones could not receive ſatisfaction, nor ſo much as offer to aſk it, in the preſence of a third perſon, ſeconds in this kind of duels not being according to the law of arms. As this objection did not occur to Lady Bellaſton, who was ignorant of any other woman being there but herſelf, ſhe waited ſome time in great aſtoniſhment for an anſwer from Jones, who, conſcious of the ridiculous figure he made, ſtood at a diſtance, and, not daring to give the proper anſwer, gave none at all. Nothing can be imagined more comic, nor yet more tragical, than this ſcene would have been, if it had laſted much longer. The lady had already changed colour two or three times, had got up from the bed, and ſat down again, while Jones was wiſhing the ground to ſink under him, or the houſe to fall on his head, when an odd accident freed him from an embarraſſment, out of which neither the eloquence of a Cicero, nor the politics of a Machiavel, could have delivered him without utter diſgrace.

This was no other than the arrival of young Nightingale, dead-drunk, or rather in that ſtate of drunkenneſs, which deprives men of the uſe of their reaſon, without depriving them of the uſe of their limbs.

Mrs Miller and her daughters were in bed, and Partridge was ſmoking his pipe by the kitchen-fire; ſo that he

he arrived at Mr Jones's chamber-door without any interruption. This he burſt open, and was entering without any ceremony, when Jones ſtarted from his ſeat, and ran to oppoſe him; which he did ſo effectually, that Nightingale never came far enough within the door to ſee who was ſitting on the bed.

Nightingale had in reality miſtaken Jones's apartment for that in which himſelf had lodged; he therefore ſtrongly inſiſted on coming in, often ſwearing that he would not be kept from his own bed. Jones, however, prevailed over him, and delivered him into the hands of Partridge, whom the noiſe on the ſtairs ſoon ſummoned to his maſter's aſſiſtance.

And now Jones was unwillingly obliged to return to his own apartment, where, at the very inſtant of his entrance, he heard Lady Bellaſton venting an exclamation, though not a very loud one, and at the ſame time ſaw her flinging herſelf into a chair in a vaſt agitation, which in a lady of a tender conſtitution would have been an hyſteric fit.

In reality the lady, frightened with the ſtruggle between the two men, of which ſhe did not know what would be the iſſue, as ſhe heard Nightingale ſwear many oaths he would come to his own bed, attempted to retire to her known place of hiding, which to her great confuſion, ſhe found already occupied by another.

"Is this uſage to be borne, Mr Jones?" cries the lady, "——baſeſt of men!——What wretch is this to "whom you have expoſed me?" "Wretch!" cries Honour, burſting in a violent rage from her place of concealment——"marry come up?——Wretch forſooth! "——as poor a wretch as I am, I am honeſt; that is "more than ſome folks who are richer can ſay."

Jones, inſtead of applying himſelf directly to take off the edge of Mrs Honour's reſentment, as a more experienced gallant would have done, fell to curſing his ſtars, and lamenting himſelf as the moſt unfortunate man in the world; and preſently after, addreſſing himſelf to Lady Bellaſton, he fell to ſome very abſurd proteſtations of innocence. By this time the lady, having recovered the uſe of her reaſon, which ſhe had as ready as any woman

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in the world, eſpecially on ſuch occaſions, calmly replied, "Sir, you need make no apologies: I ſee now who the "perſon is; I did not at firſt know Mrs Honour; but "now I do, I can ſuſpect nothing wrong between her "and you; and I am ſure ſhe is a woman of too good "ſenſe to put any wrong conſtructions upon my viſit to "you: I have been always her friend, and it may be in "my power to be much more ſo hereafter."

Mrs Honour was altogether as placable as ſhe was paſſionate. Hearing, therefore, Lady Bellaſton aſſume the ſoft tone, ſhe likewiſe ſoften'd her's.—"I'm ſure, Ma-"dam," ſays ſhe, I have been always ready to acknow-"ledge your ladyſhip's friendſhips to me; ſure I never "had ſo good a friend as your ladyſhip—and to be ſure "now, I ſee it is your ladyſhip that I ſpoke to, I could "almoſt bite my tongue off for very mad.—I conſtruc-"tions upon your ladyſhip!——to be ſure it doth not "become a ſervant as I am to think about ſuch a great "lady——I mean I was a ſervant: for indeed I am no-"body's ſervant now, the more miſerable wretch is me "——I have loſt the beſt miſtreſs."——Here Honour thought fit to produce a ſhower of tears.——"Don't "cry, child," ſays the good lady, "Ways may perhaps "be found to make you amends. Come to me to-mor-"row morning." She then took up her fan, which lay on the ground, and without even looking at Jones, walked very majeſtically out of the room; there being a kind of dignity in the impudence of women of quality, which their inferiors vainly aſpire to attain to in circumſtances of this nature.

Jones followed her down ſtairs, often offering her his hand, which ſhe abſolutely refuſed him, and got into her chair without taking any notice of him as he ſtood bowing before her.

At his return up ſtairs, a long dialogue paſſed between him and Mrs Honour, while ſhe was adjuſting herſelf after the diſcompoſure ſhe had undergone. The ſubject of this was his infidelity to her young lady; on which ſhe enlarged with great bitterneſs; but Jones at laſt found means to reconcile her, and not only ſo, but to obtain a promiſe of moſt inviolable ſecrecy, and that ſhe would

the

the next morning endeavour to find out Sophia, and bring him a further account of the proceedings of the 'ſquire.

Thus ended this unfortunate adventure to the ſatisfaction only of Mrs Honour; for a ſecret (as ſome of my readers will perhaps acknowledge from experience) is often a very valuable poſſeſſion; and that not only to thoſe who faithfully keep it, but ſometimes to ſuch as whiſper it about till it comes to the ears of every one, except the ignorant perſon, who pays for the ſuppoſed concealing of what is publicly known.

CHAP. VIII.

Short and Sweet.

NOTWITHSTANDING all the obligations ſhe had received from Jones, Mrs Miller could not forbear in the morning ſome gentle remonſtrances for the hurricane which had happened the preceding night in his chamber. Theſe were however ſo gentle and ſo friendly; profeſſing, and indeed truly, to aim at nothing more than the real good of Mr Jones himſelf, that he, far from being offended, thankfully received the admonition of the good woman, expreſſed much concern for what had paſt, excuſed it as well as he could, and promiſed never more to bring the ſame diſturbances into the houſe.

But though Mrs Miller did not refrain from a ſhort expoſtulation in private at their firſt meeting; yet the occaſion of his being ſummoned down ſtairs that morning was of a much more agreeable kind; being indeed to perform the office of a father to Miſs Nancy, and to give her in wedlock to Mr Nightingale, who was now ready dreſt, and full as ſober as many of my readers will think a man ought to be who receives a wife in ſo imprudent a manner.

And here, perhaps, it may be proper to account for the eſcape which this young gentleman had made from his uncle, and for his appearance in the condition in which we have ſeen him the night before.

Now,

Now, when the uncle had arrived at his lodgings with his nephew, partly to indulge his own inclinations (for he dearly loved his bottle) and partly to diſqualify his nephew from the immediate execution of his purpoſe, he ordered wine to be ſet on the table; with which he ſo briſkly plied the young gentleman, that this latter, who, though not much uſed to drinking, did not deteſt it ſo as to be guilty of diſobedience, or of want of complaiſance by refuſing, was ſoon completely finiſhed.

Juſt as the uncle had obtained this victory, and was preparing a bed for his nephew, a meſſenger arrived with a piece of news, which ſo entirely diſconcerted and ſhocked him, that he in a moment loſt all conſideration for his nephew, and his whole mind became entirely taken up with his own concerns.

This ſudden and afflicting news was no leſs than that his daughter had taken the opportunity of almoſt the firſt moment of his abſence, and had gone off with a neighbouring young clergyman; againſt whom, though her father could have had but one objection, namely, that he was worth nothing, yet ſhe had never thought proper to communicate her amour even to her father; and ſo artfully had ſhe managed, that it had never been once ſuſpected by any, till now that it was conſummated.

Old Mr Nightingale no ſooner received this account, than in the utmoſt confuſion he ordered a poſt-chaiſe to be inſtantly got ready, and having recommended his nephew to the care of a ſervant, he directly left the houſe, ſcarce knowing what he did, or whither he went.

The uncle being thus departed, when the ſervant came to attend the nephew to bed, had waked him for that purpoſe, and had at laſt made him ſenſible that his uncle was gone, he inſtead of accepting the kind offices tendered him, inſiſted on a chair being called; with this the ſervant, who had received no ſtrict orders to the contrary, readily complied; and thus being conducted back to the houſe of Mrs Miller, he had ſtaggered up to Mr Jones's chamber, as hath been before recounted.

This,

This bar of the uncle being now removed (though young Nightingale knew not as yet in what manner) and all parties being quickly ready, the mother, Mr Jones, Mr Nightingale, and his love, ſtept into a hackney-coach, and conveyed him to Doctors Commons; where Miſs Nancy was, in vulgar language, ſoon made an honeſt woman, and the poor mother became, in the pureſt ſenſe of the word, one of the happieſt of all human beings.

And now Mr Jones, having ſeen his good offices to that poor woman and family brought to a happy concluſion, began to apply himſelf to his own concerns; but here, leſt many of my readers ſhould cenſure his folly for thus troubling himſelf with the affairs of others, and leſt ſome few ſhould think he acted more diſintereſtedly than indeed he did, we think proper to aſſure our reader, that he was ſo far from being unconcerned in this matter, that he had indeed a very conſiderable intereſt in bringing it to that final conſummation.

To explain this ſeeming paradox at once, he was one who could truly ſay with him in Terence, *Homo ſum, humani nihil a me alienum puto.* He was never an indifferent ſpectator of the miſery or happineſs of any one, and he felt either the one or the other in great proportion as he himſelf contributed to either. He could not therefore be the inſtrument of raiſing a whole family from the loweſt ſtate of wretchedneſs to the higheſt pitch of joy, without conveying great felicity to himſelf; more perhaps than wordly men often purchaſe to themſelves by undergoing the moſt ſevere labour, and often by wading thro' the deepeſt iniquity.

Thoſe readers who are of the ſame complexion with him, will perhaps think this ſhort chapter contains abundance of matter; while others may probably wiſh, ſhort as it is, that it had been totally ſpared as impertinent to the main deſign, which I ſuppoſe they conclude is to bring Mr Jones to the gallows, or if poſſible, to a more deplorable cataſtrophe.

CHAP. IX.

Containing love-letters of ſeveral ſorts.

MR JONES at his return home, found the following letters lying on his table, which he luckily opened in the order they were ſent.

LETTER I.

" Surely I am under ſome ſtrange infatuation; I " cannot keep my reſolutions a moment, however " ſtrongly made or juſtly founded. Laſt night I reſol- " ved never to ſee you more; this morning I am " willing to hear if you can, as you ſay, clear up this af- " fair. And yet I know that to be impoſſible. I have " ſaid every thing to myſelf which you can invent.—— " Perhaps not. Perhaps your invention is ſtronger. " Come to me therefore the moment you receive this. " If you can forge an excuſe, I almoſt promiſe you to " believe it. Betrayed to——I will think no more.—— " Come to me directly——This is the third letter I have " writ, the two former are burnt——I am almoſt inclin- " ed to burn this too——I wiſh I may preſerve my " ſenſes.——Come to me preſently."

LETTER II.

" If you ever expect to be forgiven, or even ſuffered " within my doors, come to me this inſtant."

LETTER III.

" I now find you was not at home when my notes " came to your lodgings. The moment you receive this " let me ſee you;——I ſhall not ſtir out; nor ſhall " any body be let in but yourſelf. Sure nothing can " detain you long."

Jones had juſt read over theſe three billets, when Mr Nightingale came into the room. " Well, Tom," ſaid he, " any news from Lady Bellaſton, after laſt night's " adventure?" (for it was now no ſecret to any one in that

that houſe who the lady was.) "The lady Bellaſton!" anſwered Jones very gravely.——"Nay, dear Tom," cries Nightingale, "don't be reſerved to your friends. "Though I was too drunk to ſee her laſt night, I ſaw "her at the maſquerade. Do you think I am ignorant "who the queen of the fairies is?" "And did you "really then know the lady at the maſquerade?" ſaid Jones. "Yes, upon my ſoul, did I," ſaid Nightingale, "and have given you twenty hints of it ſince, though "you ſeemed always ſo tender on that point, that I "would not ſpeak plainly. I fancy, my friend, by your "extreme nicety in this matter, you are not ſo well ac-"quainted with the character of the lady as with her "perſon. Don't be angry, Tom, but, upon my honour, "you are not the firſt young fellow ſhe hath debauched. "Her reputation is in no danger, believe me."

Though Jones had no reaſon to imagine the lady to have been of the veſtal kind when this amour began; yet as he was thoroughly ignorant of the town, and had very little acquaintance in it, he had yet no knowledge of that character which is vulgarly called a demirep; that is to ſay, a woman who intrigues with every man ſhe likes, under the name and appearance of virtue; and who, though ſome over-nice ladies will not be ſeen with her, is viſited (as they term it) by the whole town; in ſhort, whom every body knows to be what no body calls her.

When he found, therefore, that Nightingale was perfectly acquainted with his intrigue, and began to ſuſpect that ſo ſcrupulous a delicacy as he had hitherto obſerved was not quite neceſſary on the occaſion, he gave a latitude to his friend's tongue, and deſired him to ſpeak plainly what he knew, or had ever heard of the lady.

Nightingale, who in many other inſtances was rather too effeminate in his diſpoſition, had a pretty ſtrong inclination to tittle-tattle. He had no ſooner, therefore, received a full liberty of ſpeaking from Jones, than he entered upon a long narrative concerning the lady; which, as it contained many particulars highly to her diſhonour, we have too great a tenderneſs for all women of condition to repeat. We would cautiouſly avoid giving an opportunity to the future commentators on our works,

of making any malicious application; and of forcing us to be, againſt our will, the author of ſcandal, which never entered into our head.

Jones having very attentively heard all that Nightingale had to ſay, fetched a deep ſigh, which the other obſerving, cried, "Hey-day! why, thou art not in love, I "hope! Had I imagined my ſtories would have affected "you, I promiſe you ſhould never have heard them." "O my dear friend," cries Jones, "I am ſo entangled "with this woman, that I know not how to extricate "myſelf. In love indeed! no, my friend, but I am un-"der obligations to her, and very great ones. Since "you know ſo much, I will be very explicit with you. "It is owing perhaps ſolely to her, that I have not be-"fore this wanted a bit of bread. How can I poſſibly "deſert ſuch a woman? and yet I muſt deſert her, or "be guilty of the blackeſt treachery to one who deſerves "infinitely better of me than ſhe can: a woman, my "Nightingale, for whom I have a paſſion which few can "have an idea of. I am half diſtracted with doubts how "to act." "And is this other, pray, an honourable "miſtreſs?" cries Nightingale. "Honourable!" anſwered Jones, "no breath ever yet durſt ſully her reputation. "The ſweeteſt air is not purer, the limpid ſtream not "clearer than her honour. She is all over, both in "mind and body, conſummate perfection. She is the "moſt beautiful creature in the univerſe; and yet ſhe "is miſtreſs of ſuch noble, elevated qualities, that though "ſhe is never from my thoughts, I ſcarce ever think of "her beauty, but when I ſee it."——"And can you, "my good friend," cries Nightingale, "with ſuch an "engagement as this upon your hands, heſitate a mo-"ment about quitting ſuch a——" "Hold," ſaid Jones, "no more abuſe of her; I deteſt the thought of ingra-"titude." Pooh!" anſwered the other, "you are not "the firſt upon whom ſhe hath conferred obligations of "this kind. She is remarkably liberal where ſhe likes; "though, let me tell you, her favours are ſo prudently "beſtowed, that they ſhould rather raiſe a man's vanity, "than his gratitude." In ſhort, Nightingale proceeded ſo far on this head, and told his friend ſo many ſtories of the

the lady, which he ſwore to the truth of, that he entirely removed all eſteem for her from the breaſt of Jones, and his gratitude was leſſened in proportion. Indeed, he began to look on all the favours he had received rather as wages than benefits, which not only depreciated her, but himſelf too, in his own conceit, and put him quite out of humour with both. From this diſguſt, his mind, by a natural tranſition, turned towards Sophia; her virtue, her purity, her love to him, her ſufferings on his account, filled all his thoughts, and made his commerce with Lady Bellaſton appear ſtill more odious. The reſult of all was, that though his turning himſelf out of her ſervice, in which light he now ſaw his affair with her, would be the loſs of his bread, yet he determined to quit her, if he could but find a handſome pretence; which having communicated to his friend, Nightingale conſidered a little, and then ſaid, "I have it, my boy! I have found "out a ſure method: propoſe marriage to her, and I "would venture hanging upon the ſucceſs." "Mar-"riage!" cries Jones. "Ay, propoſe marriage," anſwered Nightingale, "and ſhe will declare off in a mo-"ment. I knew a young fellow whom ſhe kept formerly, who made the offer to her in earneſt, and was "preſently turned off for his pains."

Jones declared he could not venture the experiment: "Perhaps," ſaid he, "ſhe may be leſs ſhocked at this "propoſal from one man than from another: and if "ſhe ſhould take me at my word, where am I then? "caught in my own trap, and undone for ever." "No," anſwered Nightingale, "not if I can give you an exp-"dient, by which you may at any time get out of the "trap."——"What expedient can that be?" replied Jones. "This," anſwered Nightingale. "The young "fellow I mentioned, who is one of the moſt intimate "acquaintance I have in the world, is ſo angry with "her for ſome ill offices ſhe hath ſince done him, that "I am ſure he would, without any difficulty, give you "a ſight of her letters; upon which you may decently "break with her, and declare off before the knot is tied, "if ſhe ſhould really be willing to tie it, which I am "convinced ſhe will not."

After

After ſome heſitation, Jones, upon the ſtrength of this aſſurance, conſented; but, as he ſwore he wanted the confidence to propoſe the matter to her face, he wrote the following letter, which Nightingale dictated:

"MADAM,

"I am extremely concerned, that, by an unfortunate "engagement abroad, I ſhould have miſſed receiving the "honour of your ladyſhip's commands the moment they "came; and the delay, which I muſt now ſuffer of vin-"dicating myſelf to your ladyſhip, greatly adds to this "misfortune. O Lady Bellaſton, what a terror have I "been in, for fear your reputation ſhould be expoſed "by theſe perverſe accidents. There is one only way to "ſecure it. I need not name what that is. Only per-"mit me to ſay, that as your honour is as dear to me as "my own, ſo my ſole ambition is to have the glory of "laying my liberty at your feet; and believe me, when "I aſſure you, I can never be made completely happy, "without you generouſly beſtow on me a legal right of "calling you mine for ever. I am,

"MADAM,

"With moſt profound reſpect,

"your ladyſhip's moſt obliged,

"obedient, humble ſervant,

"THOMAS JONES."

To this ſhe preſently returned the following anſwer:

"SIR,

"When I read over your ſerious epiſtle, I could, from "its coldneſs and formality, have ſworn that you had al-"ready the legal right you mention, nay, that we had, "for many years, compoſed that monſtrous animal, a "huſband and wife. Do you really then imagine me a "fool? or do you fancy yourſelf capable of ſo entirely "perſuading me out of my ſenſes, that I ſhould de-"liver my whole fortune into your power, in order to "enable you to ſupport your pleaſures at my expence? "Are theſe the proofs of love which I expected? Is this "the return for——But I ſcorn to upbraid you, and am "in great admiration of your profound reſpect.

P. S.

"P. S. I am prevented from reviſing:—Perhaps I "have ſaid more than I meant.——Come to me at "eight this evening."

Jones, by the advice of his privy-council, replied:

"MADAM,

"It is impoſſible to expreſs how much I am ſhocked "at the ſuſpicion you entertain of me. Can Lady Bel-"laſton have conferred favours on a man whom ſhe "could believe capable of ſo baſe a deſign? or can ſhe "treat the moſt ſolemn tie of love with contempt? Can "you imagine, Madam, that if the violence of my paſ-"ſion, in an unguarded moment, overcame the tender-"neſs which I have for your honour, that I would "think of indulging myſelf in the continuance of an "intercourſe, which could not poſſibly eſcape long the "notice of the world, and which, when diſcovered, muſt "prove ſo fatal to your reputation? If ſuch be your "opinion of me, I muſt pray for a ſudden opportunity "of returning thoſe pecuniary obligations which I have "been ſo unfortunate to receive at your hands; and, for "thoſe of a more tender kind, I ſhall ever remain, &c.": and ſo concluded in the very words with which he had concluded the former letter.

The lady anſwered as follows:

"I ſee you are a villain; and I deſpiſe you from my "ſoul. If you come here, I ſhall not be at home."

Though Jones was well ſatisfied with his deliverance from a thraldom, which thoſe who have ever experienced it will, I apprehend, allow to be none of the lighteſt, he was not however perfectly eaſy in his mind. There was in this ſcheme too much of fallacy to ſatisfy one, who utterly deteſted every ſpecies of falſehood or diſhoneſty; nor would he indeed have ſubmitted to put it in practice, had he not been involved in a diſtreſsful ſituation, where he was obliged to be guilty of ſome diſhonour either to the one lady or the other; and ſurely

the

the reader will allow, that every good principle, as well as love, pleaded ſtrongly in favour of Sophia.

Nightingale highly exulted in the ſucceſs of his ſtratagem, upon which he received many thanks, and much applauſe from his friend. He anſwered, "Dear Tom, "we have conferred very different obligations on each "other. To me you owe the regaining your liberty; "to you I owe the loſs of mine. But, if you are as happy in the one inſtance as I am in the other, I promiſe you we are the two happieſt fellows in England."

The two gentlemen were now ſummoned down to dinner, where Mrs Miller, who performed herſelf the office of cook, had exerted her beſt talents to celebrate the wedding of her daughter. This joyful circumſtance ſhe aſcribed principally to the friendly behaviour of Jones, her whole ſoul was fired with gratitude towards him, and all her looks, words, and actions, were ſo buſied in expreſſing it, that her daughter, and even her new ſon in-law, were very little the object of her conſideration.

Dinner was juſt ended, when Mrs Miller received a letter; but, as we have had letters enough in this chapter, we ſhall communicate the contents in our next.

CHAP. X.

Conſiſting partly of facts, and partly of obſervations upon them.

THE letter then, which arrived at the end of the preceding chapter, was from Mr Allworthy, and the purport of it was his intention to come immediately to town with his nephew Blifil, and a deſire to be accommodated with his uſual lodgings, which were the firſt floor for himſelf, and the ſecond for his nephew.

The cheerfulneſs, which had before diſplayed itſelf in the countenance of the poor woman, was a little clouded on this occaſion. This news did indeed a good deal diſconcert her. To requite ſo diſintereſted a match with her daughter, by preſently turning her new ſon-in-law out of doors, appeared to her very unjuſtifiable on the one

one hand; and on the other, ſhe could ſcarce bear the thoughts of making any excuſe to Mr Allworthy, after all the obligations received from him, for depriving him of lodgings which were indeed ſtrictly his due: for that gentleman, in conferring all his numberleſs benefits on others, acted by a rule diametrically oppoſite to what is practiſed by moſt generous people. He contrived, on all occaſions, to hide his benefice, not only from the world, but even from the object of it. He conſtantly uſed the words *lend* and *pay* inſtead of *give*, and, by every other method he could invent, always leſſened with his tongue the favours he conferred, while he was heaping them with both his hands. When he ſettled the annuity of 50l. a-year, therefore, on Mrs Miller, he told her, "it was in conſi-"deration of always having her firſt floor when he was "in town," (which he ſcarce ever intended to be), "but "that ſhe might let it at any other time, for that he "would always ſend her a month's warning." He was now however hurried to town ſo ſuddenly, that he had no opportunity of giving ſuch notice; and this hurry probably prevented him, when he wrote for his lodgings, from adding, if they were then empty; for he would moſt certainly have been well ſatisfied to have relinquiſhed them on a leſs ſufficient excuſe, than what Mrs Miller could now have made.

But there are a ſort of perſons, who, as Prior excellently well remarks, direct their conduct by ſomething

Beyond the fix'd and ſettled rules
Of vice and virtue in the ſchools,
Beyond the letter of the law.

To theſe it is ſo far from being ſufficient, that their defence would acquit them at the Old Bailey, that they are not even contented, though conſcience, the ſevereſt of all judges, ſhould diſcharge them. Nothing ſhort of the fair and honourable will ſatisfy the delicacy of their minds; and, if any of their actions fall ſhort of this mark, they mope and pine, are as uneaſy and reſtleſs

as a murderer, who is afraid of a ghoſt, or of the hangman.

Mrs Miller was one of theſe. She could not conceal her uneaſineſs at this letter; with the contents of which ſhe had no ſooner acquainted the company, and given ſome hints of her diſtreſs, than Jones, her good angel, preſently relieved her anxiety. "As for myſelf, Ma-"dam," ſaid he, "my lodging is at your ſervice at a mo-"ment's warning: and Mr Nightingale, I am ſure, as "he cannot yet prepare a houſe fit to receive his lady, "will conſent to return to his new lodging, whither "Mrs Nightingale will certainly conſent to go." With which propoſal both huſband and wife inſtantly agreed.

The reader will eaſily believe, that the cheeks of Mrs Miller began again to glow with additional gratitude to Jones; but, perhaps, it may be more difficult to perſuade him, that Mr Jones having in his laſt ſpeech called her daughter Mrs Nightingale, (it being the firſt time that agreeable ſound had ever reached her ears) gave the fond mother more ſatisfaction, and warmed her heart more towards Jones, than his having diſſipated her preſent anxiety.

The next day was then appointed for the removal of the new-married couple, and of Mr Jones, who was likewiſe to be provided for in the ſame houſe with his friend. And now the ſerenity of the company was again reſtored, and they paſſed the day in the utmoſt cheerfulneſs, all except Jones, who, though he outwardly accompanied the reſt in their mirth, felt many a bitter pang on the account of his Sophia; which were not a little heightened by the news of Mr Blifil's coming to town, (for he clearly ſaw the intention of his journey:) and what greatly aggravated his concern was, that Mrs Honour, who had promiſed to inquire after Sophia, and to make her report to him early the next evening, had diſappointed him.

In the ſituation that he and his miſtreſs were in at this time, there were ſcarce any grounds for him to hope that he ſhould hear any good news; yet he was as impatient to ſee Mrs Honour, as if he had expected ſhe would bring him a letter with an aſſignation in it from Sophia, and bore the diſappointment as ill. Whether this impatience

patience aroſe from that natural weakneſs of the human mind, which makes it deſirous to know the worſt, and renders uncertainty the moſt intolerable of pains; or whether he ſtill flattered himſelf with ſome ſecret hopes, we will not determine. But that it might be the laſt, whoever has loved cannot but know. For of all the powers exerciſed by this paſſion over our minds, one of the moſt wonderful is that of ſupporting hope in the midſt of deſpair. Difficulties, improbabilities, nay impoſſibilities are quite overlooked by it; ſo that to any man extremely in love, may be applied what Addiſon ſays of Cæſar,

The Alps and Pyrenæans ſink before him.

Yet it is equally true, that the ſame paſſion will ſometimes make mountains of mole-hills, and produce deſpair in the midſt of hope: but theſe cold fits laſt not long in good conſtitutions. Which temper Jones was now in we leave the reader to gueſs, having no exact information about it; but this is certain, that he had ſpent two hours in expectation, when being unable any longer to conceal his uneaſineſs, he retired to his room; where his anxiety had almoſt made him frantick, when the following letter was brought him from Mrs Honour, with which we ſhall preſent the reader *verbatim & literatim*.

"SIR,

"I ſhud ſartenly haf kaled on you a cordin too mi "prommiſs haddunt itt bin that hur laſhipp prevent "mee; for too be ſur, Sir, you noſe very well that evere "perſun muſt luk furſt at ome, and ſartenly ſure ſuch "anuther offar mite not ave ever hapned, ſo as I ſhud ave "been juſtly to blam, had I not excepted of it when her "laſhip was ſo veri kind as to offar to mak mee hur one "uman without me ever aſking any ſuch thing, to bee "ſur ſhee is won of thee beſt ladis in the wurld, and pe-"pil who ſaſe to the kontrari muſt bee veri wiket pepil "in thare harts. To be ſur if ever I ave ſad any thing "of that kine it as bin thru ignorens, and I am hartili "ſorri for it. I noſe your honour to be a genteelman

" of more onour and oneſty, if I ever ſaid ani ſuch thing, " to repete it to hurt a pore ſervant that as alwais ad the " grateſt reſpect in thee world for ure onour. To bee " ſur won ſhud kepe wons tung within wons teeth, for " no boddi noſe what may hapen ; and too be ſur if ani " boddi ad tolde mee yeſterday, that I ſhud haf bin in " ſo gud a plaſe to day, I ſhud not haf beleeved it ; for " too be ſur I never was a dremd of any ſuch thing, nor " ſhud I ever have ſoft after any other bodi's plaſe ; but " as her laſhipp was ſo kind of her one a cord to give it " mee without aſking, to be ſur Mrs Etoff herſelf, nor " no other boddi can blam me for exceptin ſuch a thing " when it falls in mi waye. I beg ure onour not too " menſhion any thing of what I haf ſad, for I wiſh ure " onour all the gud luck in the world ; and I don't " cueſtion butt thatt u will haf Madam Sofia in the end ; " but aſs to miſelf, ure onour noſe I cant bee of ani far- " der ſarvis to u in that matar, now bein under thee " cumand off anuther parſon, and nott mi one miſ- " tres. I beg ure onur to ſay nothing of what paſt, " and believe me to be, Sir,

" Ure onur's humble ſervant

" To cumand till death,

" Honour Blackmore."

Various were the conjectures which Jones entertained on this ſtep of Lady Bellaſton ; who in reality had little farther deſign than to ſecure within her own houſe the repoſitory of a ſecret, which ſhe choſe ſhould make no farther progreſs than it had made already ; but moſtly ſhe deſired to keep it from the ears of Sophia ; for though that young lady was almoſt the only one who would never have repeated it again, her ladyſhip could not perſuade herſelf of this ; ſince, as ſhe now hated poor Sophia with moſt implacable hatred, ſhe conceived a reciprocal hatred to herſelf to be lodged in the tender breaſt of our heroine, where no ſuch paſſion had ever yet found an entrance.

While

While Jones was terrifying himſelf with the apprehenſion of a thouſand dreadful machinations, and deep political deſigns, which he imagined to be at the bottom of the promotion of Honour, fortune, who, hitherto ſeems to have been an utter enemy to his match with Sophia, tried a new method to put a final end to it, by throwing a temptation in the way of Jones, which in his preſent deſperate ſituation it ſeemed unlikely he ſhould be able to reſiſt.

CHAP. XI.

Containing curious, but not unprecedented matter.

THERE was a lady, one Mrs Hunt, who had often ſeen Jones at the houſe where he lodged, being intimately acquainted with the women there, and indeed a very great friend to Mrs Miller. Her age was about thirty; for ſhe owned ſix and twenty; her face and perſon very good, only inclining a little too much to be fat. She had been married young by her relations to an old Turkey-merchant, who having got a great fortune, had left off trade. With him ſhe lived without reproach, but not without pain, in a ſtate of great ſelf-denial, for about twelve years; and her virtue was rewarded by his dying and leaving her very rich. The firſt year of her widowhood was juſt at an end, and ſhe had paſt it in a good deal of retirement, ſeeing only a few particular friends, and dividing her time between her devotions and novels, of which ſhe was always extremely fond. Very good health, a very warm conſtitution, and a great deal of religion, made it abſolutely neceſſary for her to marry again; and ſhe reſolved to pleaſe herſelf in her ſecond huſband, as ſhe had done her friends in the firſt. From her the following billet was brought to Jones:

"SIR,

"From the firſt day I ſaw you I doubt my eyes have "told you too plainly, that you were not indifferent to "me; but neither my tongue nor my hand ſhould have "ever avowed it, had not the ladies of the family where

"you

" you are lodged given me ſuch a character of you, and " told me ſuch proofs of your virtue and goodneſs, as " convince me you are not only the moſt agreeable, but " the moſt worthy of men. I have alſo the ſatisfaction " to hear from them, that neither my perſon, un- " derſtanding, or character, are diſagreeable to you. I " have a fortune ſufficient to make us both happy, but " which cannot make me ſo without you. In thus " diſpoſing of myſelf I know I ſhall incur the cenſure of " the world; but if I did not love you more than I fear " the world, I ſhould not be worthy of you. One only " difficulty ſtops me; I am informed you are engaged " in a commerce of gallantry with a woman of faſhion. " If you think it worth while to ſacrifice that to the " poſſeſſion of me, I am your's; if not, forget my weak- " neſs, and let this remain an eternal ſecret between you " and

ARABELLA HUNT."

At the reading of this, Jones was put into a violent flutter. His fortune was then at a very low ebb, the ſource being ſtopt from which hitherto he had been ſupplied. Of all he had received from Lady Bellaſton not above five guineas remained, and that very morning he had been dunned by a tradeſman for twice that ſum. His honourable miſtreſs was in the hands of her father, and he had ſcarce any hopes ever to get her out of them again. To be ſubſiſted at her expence from that little fortune ſhe had independent of her father, went much againſt the delicacy both of his pride and his love. This lady's fortune would have been exceedingly convenient to him, and he could have no objection to her in any reſpect. On the contrary, he liked her as well as he did any woman, except Sophia. But to abandon Sophia, and marry another, that was impoſſible; he could not think of it upon any account. Yet why ſhould he not, ſince it was plain ſhe could not be his? Would it not be kinder to her, than to continue her longer engaged in a hopeleſs paſſion for him? Ought he not to do ſo in friendſhip to her? This notion prevailed ſome moments, and he had almoſt determined to be falſe to her from a high point

point of honour: but that refinement was not able to ſtand very long againſt the voice of nature, which cried in his heart, that ſuch friendſhip was treaſon to love. At laſt he called for pen, ink, and paper, and writ as follows to Mrs Hunt:

"MADAM,

"It would be but a poor return to the favour you "have done me, to ſacrifice any gallantry to the poſſeſ- "ſion of you, and I would certainly do it, though I "were not diſengaged, as at preſent I am, from any af- "fair of that kind. But I ſhould not be the honeſt man "you think me, if I did not tell you, that my affections "are engaged to another, who is a woman of virtue, and "one that I never can leave, though it is probable I ſhall "never poſſeſs her. God forbid, that in return of your "kindneſs to me, I ſhould do you ſuch an injury, as to "give you my hand, when I cannot give my heart. No, "I had much rather ſtarve than be guilty of that. Even "though my miſtreſs were married to another, I would "not marry you unleſs my heart had entirely effaced all "impreſſions of her. Be aſſured that your ſecret was "not more ſafe in your own breaſt, than in that of

"Your moſt obliged and
"Grateful humble ſervant,
"T. JONES."

When our hero had finiſhed and ſent this letter, he went to his ſcrutore, took out Miſs Weſtern's muff, kiſſed it ſeveral times, and then ſtrutted ſome turns about his room, with more ſatisfaction of mind than ever any Iriſhman felt in carrying off a fortune of fifty thouſand pounds.

CHAP. XII.

A diſcovery made by Partridge.

WHILE Jones was exulting in the conſciouſneſs of his integrity, Partridge came capering into the room, as was his cuſtom when he brought, or fancied he

he brought, any good tidings. He had been diſpatched that morning by his maſter, with orders to endeavour, by the ſervants of Lady Bellaſton, or by any other means, to diſcover whether Sophia had been conveyed; and he now returned, and with a joyful countenance told our hero, that he had found the loſt bird. "I have ſeen, "Sir," ſays he, "Black George, the game-keeper, who "is one of the ſervants whom the 'ſquire hath brought "with him to town. I knew him preſently, though I "have not ſeen him theſe ſeveral years; but you know, "Sir, he is a very remarkable man, or, to uſe a purer "phraſe, he hath a moſt remarkable beard, the largeſt "and blackeſt I ever ſaw. It was ſome time, however, "before Black George could recollect me."——"Well, "but what is your good news?" cries Jones; "What "do you know of my Sophia?"——"You ſhall know "preſently, Sir," anſwered Partridge, "I am coming "to it as faſt as I can.—You are ſo impatient, Sir, you "would come at the infinitive mood before you can get "to the imperative. As I was ſaying, Sir, it was ſome "time before he recollected my face."—"Confound "your face," cries Jones, "what of my Sophia?"—"Nay, Sir," anſwered Partridge, "I know nothing "more of Madam Sophia than what I am going to tell "you; and I ſhould have told you all before this, if you "had not interrupted me; but if you look ſo angry at "me, you will frighten all of it out of my head, or, to "uſe a purer phraſe, out of my memory. I never ſaw "you look ſo angry ſince the day we left Upton, which "I ſhall remember if I was to live a thouſand years." "——"Well, pray go on in your own way," ſaid Jones; "you are reſolved to make me mad, I find." "Not "for the world," anſwered Partridge, "I have ſuffered "enough for that already: which, as I ſaid, I ſhall bear "in my remembrance the longeſt day I have to live." "——"Well, but Black George?" cries Jones.—"Well, "Sir, as I was ſaying, it was a long time before he could "recollect me; for indeed I am very much altered ſince "I ſaw him. *Non ſum qualis eram.* I have had troubles "in the world, and nothing alters a man ſo much as "grief.

" grief. I have heard it will change the colour of a " man's hair in a night. However, at laſt, know me " he did, that's ſure enough; for we are both of an age, " and were in the ſame charity-ſchool. George was a " great dunce, but no matter for that; all men do not " thrive in the world according to their learning. I am " ſure I have reaſon to ſay ſo; but it will be all one a " thouſand year's hence. Well, Sir,——where was I? " —O—well, we no ſooner knew each other, than after " many hearty ſhakes by the hand, we agreed to go to " an alehouſe and take a pot, and by good luck the beer " was ſome of the beſt I have met with ſince I have been " in town.—Now, Sir, I am coming to the point; for " no ſooner did I name you, and told him that you and " I came to town together, and had lived together ever " ſince, than he called for another pot, and ſwore he " would drink to your health; and indeed he drank " your health ſo heartily, that I was overjoyed to ſee " there was ſo much gratitude left in the world; and af- " ter we had emptied that pot, I ſaid I would be my pot " too, and ſo we drank another to your health; and " then I made haſte home to tell you the news."

" What news?" cries Jones, " you have not men- " tioned a word of my Sophia!"—" Bleſs me! I had " like to have forgot that. Indeed we mentioned a great " deal about young Madam Weſtern, and George told " me all; that Mr Blifil is coming to town in order to " be married to her. He had beſt make haſte then, ſays " I, or ſomebody will have her before he comes; and " indeed, ſays I, Mr Seagrim, it is a thouſand pities " ſomebody ſhould not have her; for he certainly loves " her above all the women in the world. I would have " both you and ſhe know, that it is not for her fortune " he follows her; for I can aſſure you as to matter of " that, there is another lady, one of much greater qua- " lity and fortune than ſhe can pretend to, who is ſo " fond of ſomebody, that ſhe comes after him day and " night."

Here Jones fell into a paſſion with Partridge, for having, as he ſaid, betrayed him; but the poor fellow an-

ſwered, "he had mentioned no name: beſides, Sir," ſaid he, "I can aſſure you George is ſincerely your friend, "and wiſhed Mr Bliſil at the devil more than once; nay, "he ſaid he would do any thing in his power upon earth "to ſerve you; and I am convinced he will.—Betray you "indeed! why, I queſtion whether you have a better "friend than George upon earth, except myſelf, or one "that would go farther to ſerve you."

"Well," ſays Jones, a little pacified, "you ſay this "fellow, who I believe indeed is enough inclined to be "my friend, lives in the ſame houſe with Sophia?"

"In the ſame houſe!" anſwered Partridge; "why, "Sir, he is one of the ſervants of the family, and very "well dreſt I promiſe you he is; if it was not for his "black beard, you would hardly know him."

"One ſervice then at leaſt he may do me," ſays Jones: "ſure he can certainly convey a letter to my "Sophia."

"You have hit the nail *ad unguem*," cries Partridge: "How came I not to think of it? I will engage he ſhall "do it upon the very firſt mentioning."

"Well then," ſaid Jones, "do you leave me at pre-"ſent, and I will write a letter which you ſhall deliver "to him to-morrow morning, for I ſuppoſe you know "where to find him."

"O yes, Sir," anſwered Partridge, "I ſhall certainly "find him again; there is no fear of that. The liquor "is too good for him to ſtay away long. I make no "doubt but he will be there every day he ſtays in "town."

"So you don't know the ſtreet then where my Sophia "is lodged?" cries Jones.

"Indeed, Sir, I do," ſays Partridge.

"What is the name of the ſtreet?" cries Jones.

"The name, Sir!" why here, Sir, juſt by," anſwer-ed Partridge, "not above a ſtreet or two off. I don't "indeed know the very name; for, as he never told me, "if I had aſked, you know it might have put ſome ſuſ-"picion into his head. No, no, Sir, let me alone for "that. I am too cunning for that, I promiſe you."

"Then

"Thou art moſt wonderfully cunning indeed," replied Jones; "however, I will write to my charmer, "ſince I believe you will be cunning enough to find him "to-morrow at the alehouſe."

And now, having diſmiſſed the ſagacious Partridge, Mr Jones ſat himſelf down to write, in which employment we ſhall leave him for a time. And here we put an end to the fifteenth book.

THE

HISTORY

OF A

FOUNDLING.

BOOK XVI.

CONTAINING THE SPACE OF FIVE DAYS.

CHAP. I.

Of Prologues.

I HAVE heard of a dramatic writer who uſed to ſay, he would rather write a play than a prologue; in like manner, I think, I can with leſs pains write one of the books of this hiſtory, than the prefatory chapter to each of them.

To ſay the truth, I believe many a hearty curſe hath been devoted on the head of the author, who firſt inſtituted the method of prefixing to his play that portion of matter which is called the Prologue; and which at firſt was part of the piece itſelf, but of later years hath had uſually ſo little connexion with the drama before which it ſtands, that the prologue at one play might as well ſerve for any other. Thoſe indeed of more modern date ſeem all to be written on the ſame three topics, viz. an abuſe of the taſte of the town, a condemnation of all contemporary authors, and an eulogium on the performance juſt about to be repreſented. The ſentiments in all theſe are very little varied, nor is it poſſible they ſhould; and indeed I have often wondered at the great invention of authors, who have been capable of finding ſuch various phraſes to expreſs the ſame thing.

In

In like manner, I apprehend ſome future hiſtorian (if any one ſhall do me the honour of imitating my manner) will, after much ſcratching his pate, beſtow ſome good wiſhes on my memory, for having firſt eſtabliſhed theſe ſeveral initial chapters; moſt of which, like modern prologues, may as properly be prefixed to any other book in this hiſtory as to that which they introduce, or indeed to any other hiſtory, as to this.

But however authors may ſuffer by either of theſe inventions, the reader will find ſufficient emolument in the one, as the ſpectator hath long found in the other.

Firſt, it is well known that the prologue ſerves the critic for an opportunity to try his faculty of hiſſing, and to tune his cat-call to the beſt advantage; by which means, I have known thoſe muſical inſtruments ſo well prepared, that they have been able to play in full concert at the firſt riſing of the curtain.

The ſame advantages may be drawn from theſe chapters, in which the critic will be always ſure of meeting with ſomething that may ſerve as a whetſtone to his noble ſpirit; ſo that he may fall with a more hungry appetite for cenſure on the hiſtory itſelf. And here his ſagacity muſt make it needleſs to obſerve how artfully theſe chapters are calculated for that excellent purpoſe; for in theſe we have always taken care to interſperſe ſomewhat of the ſour or acid kind, in order to ſharpen and ſtimulate the ſaid ſpirit of criticiſm.

Again, the indolent reader, as well as ſpectator, finds great advantage from both theſe; for, as they are not obliged either to ſee the one or read the others, and both the play and the book are thus protracted; by the former they have a quarter of an hour longer allowed them to ſit at dinner, and by the latter they have the advantage of beginning to read at the fourth or fifth page inſtead of the firſt; a matter by no means of trivial conſequence to perſons who read books with no other view than to ſay they have read them, a more general motive to reading than is commonly imagined; and from which not only law books and good books, but the pages of Homer and Virgil, of Swift and Cervantes, have been often turned over.

Many

Many other are the emoluments which ariſe from both theſe, but they are for the moſt part ſo obvious, that we ſhall not at preſent ſtay to enumerate them; eſpecially ſince it occurs to us that the principal merit of both the prologue and the preface is, that they be ſhort.

CHAP. II.

A whimſical Adventure which befel the 'Squire, with the diſtreſſed ſituation of Sophia.

WE muſt now convey the reader to Mr Weſtern's lodgings, which were in Piccadilly, where he was placed by the recommendation of the landlord at the Hercules Pillars at Hyde-Park-Corner; for at the inn, which was the firſt he ſaw on his arrival in town, he placed his horſes, and in thoſe lodgings, which were the firſt he heard of, he depoſited himſelf.

Here when Sophia alighted from the hackney-coach which brought her from the houſe of Lady Bellaſton, ſhe deſired to retire to the apartment provided for her, to which her father very readily agreed, and whither he attended her himſelf. A ſhort dialogue, neither very material nor pleaſant to relate minutely, then paſſed between them, in which he preſſed her vehemently to give her conſent to the marriage with Blifil, who, as he acquainted her, was to be in town in a few days; but inſtead of complying, ſhe gave a more peremptory and reſolute refuſal than ſhe had ever done before. This ſo incenſed her father, that after many bitter vows that he would force her to have him whether ſhe would or no, he departed from her with many hard words and curſes, locked the door, and put the key into his pocket.

While Sophia was left with no other company than what attend the cloſe ſtate priſoner, namely, fire, and candle, the 'ſquire ſat down to regale himſelf over a bottle of wine, with his parſon and the landlord of the Hercules Pillars, who, as the 'ſquire ſaid, would make an excellent third man, and could inform them of the news of the town, and how affairs went; for to be ſure, ſays he, he knows a great deal, ſince the horſes of many of the quality ſtand at his houſe.

In

In this agreeable ſociety Mr Weſtern paſt that evening and great part of the ſucceeding day, during which period nothing happened of ſufficient conſequence to find a place in this hiſtory. All this time Sophia paſt by herſelf; for her father ſwore ſhe ſhould never come out of her chamber alive, unleſs ſhe firſt conſented to marry Blifil; nor did he ever ſuffer the door to be unlocked, unleſs to convey her food, on which occaſions he always attended himſelf.

The ſecond morning after his arrival, while he and the parſon were at breakfaſt together on a toaſt and tankard, he was informed that a gentleman was below to wait on him.

"A gentleman!" quoth the 'ſquire, "who the devil "can he be? Do, doctor, go down and ſee who 'tis. "Mr Blifil can hardly be come to town yet.—Go down, "do, and know what his buſineſs is."

The doctor returned with an account that it was a very well dreſt man, and, by the ribbon in his hat, he took him for an officer of the army; that he ſaid he had ſome particular buſineſs, which he could deliver to none but Mr Weſtern himſelf.

"An officer!" cries the 'ſquire, "what can any ſuch "fellow have to do with me? If he wants an order for "baggage-waggons, I am no juſtice of peace here, nor "can I grant a warrant.—Let un come up then, if he "muſt ſpeak to me,"

A very genteel man now entered the room; who having made his compliments to the 'ſquire, and deſired the favour of being alone with him, delivered himſelf as follows:

"Sir, I come to wait upon you by the command of "my Lord Fellamar, but with a very different meſſage "from what I ſuppoſe you expect, after what paſt the "other night."

"My Lord who?" cries the 'ſquire; "I never heard "the name o' un."

"His lordſhip," ſaid the gentleman, "is willing to "impute every thing to the effect of liquor, and the "moſt trifling acknowledgment of that kind will ſet "every thing right; for, as he hath the moſt violent at-

"tachment

" tachment to your daughter, you, Sir, are the laſt per-
" ſon upon earth from whom he would reſent an af-
" front; and happy is it for you both, that he hath giv-
" en ſuch public demonſtrations of his courage, as to be
" able to put up an affair of this kind, without danger of
" any imputation on his honour. All he deſires, there-
" fore, is, that you will before me make ſome acknow-
" ledgment; the ſlighteſt in the world will be ſufficient;
" and he intends this afternoon to pay his reſpects to
" you, in order to obtain your leave of viſiting the young
" lady on the footing of a lover."

" I don't underſtand much of what you ſay, Sir," ſaid the 'ſquire; " but I ſuppoſe, by what you talk a-
" bout my daughter, that this is the lord which my cou-
" ſin Lady Bellaſton mentioned to me, and ſaid ſome-
" thing about his courting my daughter. If ſo be, that
" how, that be the caſe—you may give my ſervice to his
" lordſhip, and tell un the girl is diſpoſed of already."

" Perhaps, Sir," ſaid the gentleman, " you are not
" ſufficiently apprized of the greatneſs of this offer. I
" believe ſuch a perſon, title, and fortune, would be no
" where refuſed."

" Lookee, Sir," anſwered the 'ſquire, " to be very
" plain, my daughter is beſpoke already; but, if ſhe
" was not, I would not marry her to a lord on any ac-
" count; I hate all lords; they are a parcel of courtiers
" and Hanoverians, and I will have nothing to do with
" them."

" Well, Sir," ſaid the gentleman, " if that is your
" reſolution, the meſſage I am to deliver to you is, that
" my lord deſires the favour of your company this
" morning in Hyde-Park."

" You may tell my lord," anſwered the 'ſquire, " that
" I am buſy, and cannot come. I have enough to look
" after at home, and can't ſtir abroad on any account."

" I am ſure, Sir," quoth the other, " you are too
" much a gentleman to ſend ſuch a meſſage; you will
" not, I am convinced, have it ſaid of you that, after ha-
" ving affronted a noble peer, you refuſe him ſatisfac-
" tion. His lordſhip would have been willing, from his
" great regard to the young lady, to have made up

" matters

" matters in another way; but unleſs he is to look on " you as a father, his honour will not ſuffer his putting " up ſuch an indignity, as you muſt be ſenſible you of- " fered him."

" I offered him," cries the 'ſquire; " it is a d—n'd " lie, I never offered him any thing."

Upon theſe words the gentleman returned a very ſhort verbal rebuke, and this he accompanied at the ſame time with ſome manual remonſtrances, which no ſooner reached the ears of Mr Weſtern, than that worthy 'ſquire began to caper very briſkly about the room, bellowing at the ſame time with all his might, as deſirous to ſummon a great number of ſpectators to behold his agility.

The parſon, who had left great part of the tankard unfiniſhed, was not retired far; he immediately attended therefore on the 'ſquire's vociferation, crying, " Bleſs " me! Sir, what's the matter?"——" Matter!" quoth the 'ſquire, " here's a highwayman, I believe, who wants " to rob and murder me——for he hath fallen upon me " with that ſtick there in his hand, when I will I may " be d—n'd if I gid un the leaſt provocation."

" How, Sir," ſaid the captain, " did you not tell me " I ly'd?"

" No, as I hope to be ſaved," anſwered the 'ſquire. " I believe I might ſay, 'Twas a lie that I had offered " any affront to my lord;——but I never ſaid " the word you lie——I underſtand myſelf better, " and you might have underſtood yourſelf better, than " to fall upon a naked man. If I had a ſtick in my " hand you would not have dared to ſtrike me. I'd " have knocked thy lantern jaws about thy ears. Come " down into yard this minute, and I'll take a bout with " thee at ſingle ſtick for a broken head, that I will; or I " will go into naked room and box thee for a belly-full. " At unt half a man, at unt I'm ſure."

The captain with ſome indignation replied, " I ſee, " Sir, you are below my notice, and I ſhall inform his " lordſhip you are below his.—I am ſorry I have dirtied " my fingers with you."—At which words he withdrew, the parſon interpoſing to prevent the 'ſquire from ſtoping him, in which he eaſily prevailed, as the other, tho'

he made ſome efforts for the purpoſe, did not ſeem very violently bent on ſucceſs. However, when the captain was departed, the 'ſquire ſent many curſes, and ſome menaces after him; but as theſe did not ſet out from his lips till the officer was at the bottom of the ſtairs, and grew louder and louder as he was more and more remote, they did not reach his ears, or at leaſt did not retard his departure.

Poor Sophia, however, who in her priſon heard all her father's outcries from firſt to laſt, began now firſt to thunder with her foot, and afterwards to ſcream as loudly as the old gentleman himſelf had done before, though in a much ſweeter voice. Theſe ſcreams ſoon ſilenced the 'ſquire, and turned all his conſiderations towards his daughter, whom he loved ſo tenderly, that the leaſt apprehenſion of any harm happening to her, threw him preſently into agonies: for, except in that ſingle inſtance in which the whole future happineſs of her life was concerned, ſhe was ſovereign miſtreſs of his inclinations.

Having ended his rage againſt the captain, with ſwearing he would take the law of him, the 'ſquire now mounted up ſtairs to Sophia, whom, as ſoon as he had unlocked and opened the door, he found all pale and breathleſs. The moment, however, that ſhe ſaw her father, ſhe collected all her ſpirits, and catching hold of him by the hand, ſhe cried paſſionately "O my dear "Sir, I am almoſt frighted to death; I hope to Heaven "no harm hath happened to you."—"No, no," cries the 'ſquire, "no great harm. The raſcal hath not hurt "me much, but rat me if I don't ha' the la o'un." "Pray, dear Sir," ſays ſhe, "tell me what's the matter; "who is it that hath inſulted you?" "I don't know the "name o'un," anſwered Weſtern; "ſome officer fel"low I ſuppoſe, that we are to pay for beating us; but "I'll make him pay this bout, if the raſcal hath got any "thing, which I ſuppoſe he hath not; for, thof he was "dreſt out ſo vine, I queſtion whether he had got a voot "of land in the world." "But, dear Sir," cries ſhe, "what was the occaſion of your quarrel?" "What "ſhould it be, Sophy?" anſwered the 'ſquire, "but a"bout you, Sophy. All my misfortunes are about you;

"you

" you will be the death of your poor father at laſt. " Here's a varlet of a lord, the Lord knows who for- " ſooth! who hath taan a liking to you, and becauſe I " would not gi un my conſent, he ſent me a kallenge. " Come, do be a good girl, Sophy, and put an end to " all your father's troubles; come do' conſent to ha' un; " he will be in town within this day or two; do but pro- " miſe me to marry un as ſoon as he comes, and you " will make me the happieſt man in the world, and I " will make you the happieſt woman; you ſhall have the " fineſt clothes in London, and the fineſt jewels, and a " coach and ſix at your command. I promiſed Allwor- " thy already to give up half my eſtate.—Odrabbit it! " I ſhould hardly ſtick at giving up the whole. " Will " my papa be ſo kind," ſays ſhe, " as to hear me ſpeak!" —" Why wout aſk, Sophy?" cries he, " when doſt " know I had rather hear thy voice than the muſic of " the beſt pack of dogs in England.—Hear thee, my " dear little girl! I hope I ſhall hear thee as long as I " live: for, if ever I was to loſe that pleaſure, I would " not gee a braſs varden to live a moment longer. In- " deed, Sophy, you do not know how I love you; in- " deed you don't, or you never could have run away " and left your poor father, who hath no other joy, no " other comfort upon earth but his little Sophy." At theſe words the tears ſtood in his eyes; and Sophia (with the tears ſtreaming from hers) anſwered, " Indeed, my " dear papa, I know you have loved me tenderly, and " Heaven is my witneſs how ſincerely I have returned " your affection; nor could any thing, but an appre- " henſion of being forced into the arms of this man, have " driven me to run from a father whom I love ſo paſ- " ſionately, that I would with pleaſure ſacrifice my life " to his happineſs; nay, I have endeavoured to reaſon " myſelf into doing more, and had almoſt worked up a " reſolution to endure the moſt miſerable of all lives, to " comply with your inclination. It was that reſolution " alone to which I could not force my mind; nor can I " ever." Here the 'ſquire began to look wild, and the foam appeared at his lips, which Sophia obſerving, beg- ged to be heard out, and then proceeded, " If my fa-

"ther's life, his health, or any real happineſs of his, "was at ſtake, here ſtands your reſolved daughter: May "Heaven blaſt me, if there is a miſery I would not ſuf- "fer to preſerve you.—No, that moſt deteſted, moſt "loathſome of all lots would I embrace. I would give "my hand to Blifil for your ſake."—"I tell thee, it "will preſerve me," anſwers the father; "it will gee "me health, happineſs, life, every thing.—Upon my "ſoul, I ſhall die if doſt refuſe me: I ſhall break my "heart; I ſhall upon my ſoul."—"Is it poſſible," ſays ſhe, "you can have ſuch a deſire to make me miſerable?" "I tell thee noa," anſwered he loudly; "my whole de- "ſire is to make thee happy: Me! d—n me if there is "a thing upon earth I would not do to ſee thee happy?" —"And will not my dear papa allow me to have the "leaſt knowledge of what will make me ſo? If it be true "that happineſs conſiſts in opinion, what muſt be my "condition, when I ſhall think myſelf the moſt miſer- "able of all the wretches upon earth?" "Better think "yourſelf ſo," ſaid he, "than know it by being married "to a poor baſtardly vagabond." "If it will content "you, Sir," ſaid Sophia, "I will give you the moſt ſo- "lemn promiſe never to marry him nor any other, while "my papa lives, without his conſent. Let me dedicate "my whole life to your ſervice; let me be again your "poor Sophy, and my whole buſineſs and pleaſure be, "as it hath been, to pleaſe and divert you." "Lookee, "Sophy," anſwered the 'ſquire, "I am not to be chou- "ſed in this manner. Your aunt Weſtern would then "have reaſon to think me the fool ſhe doth." "No, "no, Sophy, I'd have you to know I have got more "wiſdom, and know more of the world, than to take "the word of a woman in a matter where a man is con- "cerned." "How, Sir, have I deſerved this want of "confidence?" ſaid ſhe. "Have I ever broke a ſingle "promiſe to you? or have I ever been found guilty of a "falſehood from my cradle?" "Lookee, Sophy," cries he, "that's neither here nor there. I am determined "upon this match, and have him you ſhall: d—n me, "if ſhat unt. D—n me, if ſhat unt, tho' doſt hang "thyſelf next morning." At repeating theſe words, he clenched

clenched his fiſt, knit his brows, bit his lips, and thundered ſo loud, that the poor, afflicted, terrified Sophia, ſunk trembling into her chair, and, had not a flood of tears come immediately to her relief, perhaps worſe had followed.

Weſtern beheld the deplorable condition of his daughter with no more contrition or remorſe, than the turnkey of Newgate feels at viewing the agonies of a tender wife, when taking her laſt farewell of her condemned huſband; or rather, he looked down on her with the ſame emotions, which ariſe in an honeſt fair tradeſman, who ſees his debtor dragged to priſon for 10 l. which, though a juſt debt, the wretch is wickedly unable to pay: or, to hit the caſe ſtill more nearly, he felt the ſame compunction with a bawd, when ſome poor innocent, whom ſhe hath inſnared into her hands, falls into fits at the firſt propoſal of what is called ſeeing company. Indeed this reſemblance would be exact, was it not that the bawd hath an intereſt in what ſhe doth, and the father, though perhaps he may blindly think otherwiſe, can in reality have none in urging his daughter to almoſt an equal proſtitution.

In this condition he left his poor Sophia, and, departing with a very vulgar obſervation on the effect of tears, he locked the room, and returned to the parſon, who ſaid every thing he durſt in behalf of the young lady, which, though perhaps it was not quite ſo much as his duty required, yet was it ſufficient to throw the 'ſquire into a violent rage, and into many indecent reflections on the whole body of the clergy, which we have too great an honour for that ſacred function to commit to paper.

CHAP. III.

What happened to Sophia *during her confinement.*

THE landlady of the houſe where the 'ſquire lodged had begun very early to entertain a ſtrange opinion of her gueſts. However, as ſhe was informed that the 'ſquire was a man of a vaſt fortune, and as ſhe had taken care to exact a very extraordinary price for her rooms,

rooms, ſhe did not think proper to give any offence; for though ſhe was not without ſome concern for the confinement of poor Sophia, of whoſe great ſweetneſs of temper and affability the maid of the houſe had made ſo favourable a report, which was confirmed by all the 'ſquire's ſervants, yet ſhe had much more concern for her own intereſt, than to provoke one, whom, as ſhe ſaid, ſhe perceived to be a very haſtiſh kind of a gentleman.

Though Sophia ate but little, yet ſhe was regularly ſerved with her meals: Indeed, I believe, if ſhe had liked any one rarity, that the 'ſquire, however angry, would have ſpared neither pains nor coſt to have procured it for her, ſince, however ſtrange it may appear to ſome of my readers, he really doated on his daughter, and to give her any kind of pleaſure was the higheſt ſatisfaction of his life.

The dinner-hour being arrived, Black George carried her up a pullet, the 'ſquire himſelf (for he had ſworn not to part with the key) attending the door. As George depoſited the diſh, ſome compliments paſſed between him and Sophia, (for he had not ſeen her ſince ſhe left the country, and ſhe treated every ſervant with more reſpect, than ſome perſons ſhew to thoſe who are in a very ſlight degree their inferiors). Sophia would have had him take the pullet back, ſaying ſhe could not eat; but George begged her to try, and particularly recommended to her the eggs, of which he ſaid it was full.

All this time the 'ſquire was waiting at the door; but George was a great favourite with his maſter, as his employment was in concerns of the higheſt nature, namely about the game, and was accuſtomed to take many liberties. He had officiouſly carried up the dinner, being, as he ſaid, very deſirous to ſee his young lady; he made therefore no ſcruple of keeping his maſter ſtanding above ten minutes, while civilities were paſſing between him and Sophia; for which he received only a good humoured rebuke at the door when he returned.

The eggs of pullets, partridges, pheaſants, &c. were, as George well knew, the moſt favourite dainties of Sophia. It was therefore no wonder that he, who was a very

very good natured fellow, ſhould take care to ſupply her with this kind of delicacy, at a time when all the ſervants in the houſe were afraid ſhe would be ſtarved, for ſhe had ſcarce ſwallowed a ſingle morſel in the laſt forty hours.

Though vexation hath not the ſame effect on all perſons as it uſually hath on a widow, whoſe appetite it often renders ſharper than it can be rendered by the air on Banſted Downs, or Saliſbury plain, yet the ſublimeſt grief, notwithſtanding what ſome people may ſay to the contrary, will eat at laſt: and Sophia herſelf, after ſome little conſideration, began to diſſect the fowl, which ſhe found to be as full of eggs as George had reported it.

But, if ſhe was pleaſed with theſe, it contained ſomething which would have delighted the Royal Society much more; for if a fowl with three legs be ſo invaluable a curioſity, when perhaps time hath produced a thouſand ſuch, at what price ſhall we eſteem a bird, which ſo totally contradicts all the laws of animal economy, as to contain a letter in its belly? Ovid tells us of a flower, into which Hyacinthus was metamorphoſed, that bears letters on its leaves, which Virgil recommended as a miracle to the Royal Society of his day: but no age nor nation hath ever recorded a bird with a letter in its maw.

But though a miracle of this kind might have engaged all the *academies des ſciences* in Europe, and perhaps in a fruitleſs inquiry, yet the reader, by barely recollecting the laſt dialogue which paſſed between Meſſieurs Jones and Partridge, will be very eaſily ſatisfied from whence this letter came, and how it found its paſſage into the fowl.

Sophia, notwithſtanding her long faſt, and notwithſtanding her favourite diſh was there before her, no ſooner ſaw the letter than ſhe immediately ſnatched it up, tore it open, and read as follows:

" MADAM,

" Was I not ſenſible to whom I have the honour of " writing, I ſhould endeavour, however difficult, to paint " the horrors of my mind at the account brought me by " Mrs Honour: but as tenderneſs alone can have any " true idea of the pangs which tenderneſs is capable of

" feeling,

" feeling, ſo can this moſt amiable quality, which my So-
" phia poſſeſſes in the moſt eminent degree, ſufficiently
" inform her what her Jones muſt have ſuffered on this
" melancholy occaſion. Is there a circumſtance in the
" world which can heighten my agonies, when I hear
" of any misfortune which hath befallen you? Surely
" there is one only, and with that I am accurſed. It is,
" my Sophia, the dreadful conſideration that I am myſelf
" the wretched cauſe. Perhaps I here do myſelf too much
" honour; but none will envy me an honour which coſts
" me ſo extremely dear. Pardon me this preſumption, and
" pardon me a greater ſtill, if I aſk you whether my ad-
" vice, my aſſiſtance, my preſence, my abſence, my death,
" or my tortures, can bring you any relief? Can the
" moſt perfect admiration, the moſt watchful obſervance,
" the moſt ardent love, the moſt melting tenderneſs, the
" moſt reſigned ſubmiſſion to your will, make you
" amends for what you are to ſacrifice to my happineſs?
" If they can, fly, my lovely angel, to thoſe arms which
" are ever open to receive and protect you; and to which,
" whether you bring yourſelf alone, or the riches of the
" world with you, is in my opinion an alternative not
" worth regarding. If, on the contrary, wiſdom ſhall
" predominate, and, on the moſt mature reflection, in-
" form you, that the ſacrifice is too great; and if there
" be no way left to reconcile you to your father, and re-
" ſtore the peace of your dear mind, but by abandoning
" me, I conjure you drive me for ever from your
" thoughts, exert your reſolution, and let no compaſ-
" ſion for my ſufferings bear the leaſt weight in that
" tender boſom. Believe me, Madam, I ſo ſincerely
" love you better than myſelf, that my great and prin-
" cipal end is your happineſs. My firſt wiſh (why would
" not fortune indulge me in it?) was, and pardon me if
" I ſay, ſtill is, to ſee you every moment the happieſt of
" women; my ſecond wiſh is, to hear you are ſo; but
" no miſery on earth can equal mine, while I think you
" owe an uneaſy moment to him who is,

" MADAM,

" In every ſenſe, and to every purpoſe,

" your devoted,

" THOMAS JONES."

What

What Sophia ſaid, or did, or thought, upon this letter, how often ſhe read it, or whether more than once, ſhall all be left to our reader's imagination. The anſwer to it he may perhaps ſee hereafter, but not at preſent, for this reaſon among others, that ſhe did not now write any, and that for ſeveral good cauſes, one of which was this, ſhe had no paper, pen, nor ink.

In the evening, while Sophia was meditating on the letter ſhe had received, or on ſomething elſe, a violent noiſe from below diſturbed her meditations. This noiſe was no other than a round bout at altercation between two perſons. One of the combatants, by his voice, ſhe immediately diſtinguiſhed to be her father; but ſhe did not ſo ſoon diſcover the ſhriller pipes to belong to the organ of her aunt Weſtern, who had juſt arrived in town, where having by means of one of her ſervants, who ſtopt at the Hercules Pillars, learnt where her brother lodged, ſhe drove directly to his lodgings.

We ſhall therefore take our leave at preſent of Sophia, and, with our uſual good breeding, attend her ladyſhip.

CHAP. IV.

In which Sophia *is delivered from her confinement.*

THE 'ſquire and the parſon (for the landlord was now otherwiſe engaged) were ſmoaking their pipes together, when the arrival of the lady was firſt ſignified. The 'ſquire no ſooner heard her name, than he immediately ran down to uſher her up ſtairs; for he was a great obſerver of ſuch ceremonials, eſpecially to his ſiſter, of whom he ſtood more in awe than of any other human creature, though he never would own this, nor did he perhaps know it himſelf.

Mrs Weſtern, on her arrival in the dining-room, having flung herſelf into a chair, began thus to harangue: "Well, ſurely no one ever had ſuch an intolerable jour-"ney. I think the roads, ſince ſo many turnpike acts, "are grown worſe than ever. La, brother, how could "you get into this odious place? no perſon of condition,

"I dare ſwear, ever ſet foot here before." "I don't "know," cries the 'ſquire, "I think they will do well "enough; it was landlord recommended them. I "thought as he knew moſt of the quality, he could "beſt ſhew me where to get among um." "Well, and "where's my niece?" ſays the lady. "Have you been "to wait upon lady Bellaſton yet?" "Ay, ay," cries the 'ſquire, "your niece is ſafe enough; ſhe is up ſtairs "in chamber." "How," anſwered the lady, "is my "niece in this houſe, and doth ſhe not know of my "being here?" "No, nobody can well get to her," ſays the 'ſquire, "for ſhe is under lock and key. I "have her ſafe; I vetched her from my lady couſin the "firſt night I came to town, and I have taken care o' "her ever ſince; ſhe is as ſecure as a fox in a bag, I pro-"miſe you." "Good Heaven!" returned Mrs Weſtern, "what do I hear! I thought what a fine piece "of work would be the conſequence of my conſent to "your coming to town yourſelf; nay, it was indeed "your own head-ſtrong will, nor can I charge myſelf "with having ever conſented to it. Did not you pro-"miſe me, brother, that you would take none of theſe "headſtrong meaſures? Was it not by theſe headſtrong "meaſures that you forced my niece to run away from "you into the country? Have you a mind to oblige her "to take ſuch another ſtep?" "Z——ds and the de-"vil," cries the 'ſquire, daſhing his pipe on the ground, "did ever mortal hear the like? when I expected you "would have commended me for all I have done, to "be fallen upon in this manner!" "How! brother," ſaid the lady, "have I ever given you the leaſt reaſon to "imagine I ſhould commend you for locking up your "daughter? Have I not often told you, that women in "a free country are not to be treated with ſuch arbitra-"ry power? We are as free as the men, and I heartily "wiſh I could not ſay we deſerve that freedom better. "If you expect I ſhould ſtay a moment longer in this "wretched houſe, or that I ſhould ever own you again as "a relation, or that I ſhould ever trouble myſelf again "with the affairs of your family, I inſiſt upon it that "my niece be ſet at liberty this inſtant." This ſhe

ſpoke

ſpoke with ſo commanding an air, ſtanding with her back to the fire, with one hand behind her, and a pinch of ſnuff in the other, that I queſtion whether Thaleſtris at the head of her Amazons ever made a more tremendous figure. It is no wonder therefore that the poor 'ſquire was not proof againſt the awe which ſhe inſpired. "There," he cried, throwing down the key, "there it "is, do whatever you pleaſe. I intended only to have "kept her up till Blifil came to town; which can't be "long; and now, if any harm happens in the mean "time, remember who is to be blamed for it."

"I will anſwer it with all my life," cries Mrs Weſtern, "but I ſhall not intermeddle at all, unleſs upon one con-"dition, and that is, that you will commit the whole en-"tirely to my care, without taking any one meaſure "yourſelf, unleſs I ſhall eventually appoint you to act. "If you ratify theſe preliminaries, brother, I yet will "endeavour to preſerve the honour of your family; if "not, I ſhall continue in a neutral ſtate."

"I pray you, good Sir," ſaid the Parſon, "permit "yourſelf this once to be admoniſhed by her ladyſhip; "peradventure by communing with young Madam So-"phia, ſhe will effect more than you have been able to "perpetrate by more vigorous meaſures."

"What, doſt thee open upon me?" cries the 'ſquire. "If thee doſt begin to babble, I ſhall whip thee in pre-"ſently."

"Fie, brother," anſwered the lady, "is this language "to a clergyman? Mr Supple is a man of ſenſe and "gives you the beſt advice: and the whole world, I be-"lieve, will concur in his opinion; but I muſt tell you, "I expect an immediate anſwer to my categorical pro-"poſals. Either cede your daughter to my diſpoſal, or "take her wholly to your own ſurpriſing diſcretion, "and then I here, before Mr Supple, evacuate the gar-"riſon, and renounce you and your family for ever."

"I pray you, let me be a mediator," cries the Parſon, "let me ſupplicate you."

"Why, there lies the key on the table," cries the 'ſquire; "ſhe may take un up, if ſhe pleaſes; who hin-"ders her?"

"No brother," answered the lady, "I insist on the "formality of its being delivered me, with a full ratifi- "cation of all the concessions stipulated."

"Why then I will deliver it to you.——There 'tis," cries the 'squire. "I am sure, sister, you can't accuse "me of ever denying to trust my daughter to you. She "hath lived wi' you a whole year and muore at a time, "without my ever zeeing her."

"And it would have been happy for her," answered the lady, "if she had always lived with me. Nothing of "this kind would have happened under my eye."

"Ay, certainly," cries he; "I only am to blame."

"Why, you are to blame, brother," answered she: "I have been often obliged to tell you so, and shall al- "ways be obliged to tell you so. However, I hope you "will now amend, and gather so much experience from "past errors, as not to defeat my wisest machinations by "your blunders. Indeed, brother, you are not qualified "for these negociations. All your whole scheme of po- "litics is wrong. I once more, therefore, insist, that you "do not intermeddle. Remember only what is past."—

"Z—ds and bl—d, sister," cries the 'squire, "What "would you have me say? You are enough to provoke "the devil."

"There now," said she, "just according to the old "custom. I see, brother, there is no talking to you. I "will appeal to Mr Supple, who is a man of sense, if I "said any thing which could put any human creature "into a passion; but you are so wrong-headed every "way."

"Let me beg you, Madam," said the parson, "not "to irritate his worship."

"Irritate him?" said the lady;——"Sure you are as "great a fool as himself. Well, brother, since you have "promised not to interfere, I will once more undertake "the management of my niece. Lord have mercy upon "all affairs which are under the direction of men. The "head of one woman is worth a thousand of yours." And now having summoned a servant to shew her to Sophia, she departed, bearing the key with her.

She

She was no ſooner gone, than the 'ſquire (having firſt ſhut the door,) ejaculated twenty bitches, and as many hearty curſes againſt her, not ſparing himſelf for having ever thought of her eſtate; but added, "Now one hath "been a ſlave ſo long, it would be a pity to loſe it at "laſt, for want of holding out a little longer.—The bitch "can't live for ever, and I know I am down for it in the "will."

The parſon greatly commended this reſolution; and now the 'ſquire having ordered in another bottle, which was his uſual method when any thing either pleaſed or vexed him, did, by drinking plentifully of this medicinal julap, ſo totally waſh away his choler, that his temper was become perfectly placid and ſerene, when Mrs Weſtern returned with Sophia into the room. The young lady had on her hat and capuchin, and the aunt acquainted Mr Weſtern, "that ſhe intended to take her niece with "her to her own lodgings; for indeed, brother," ſays ſhe, "theſe rooms are not fit to receive a chriſtian ſoul "in."

"Very well, Madam," quoth Weſtern, "whatever "you pleaſe. The girl can never be in better hands "than yours; and the parſon here can do me the juſ-"tice to ſay, that I have ſaid fifty times behind your "back, that you was one of the moſt ſenſible women in "the world."

"To this," cries the parſon, "I am ready to bear "teſtimony."

"Nay, brother," ſays Mrs Weſtern, "I have always, "I'm ſure, given you as favourable a character. You "muſt own you have a little too much haſtineſs in your "temper; but when you will allow yourſelf time to re-"flect, I never knew a man more reaſonable."

"Why then, ſiſter, if you think ſo," ſaid the 'ſquire, "here's your good health with all my heart. I am a "little paſſionate ſometimes, but I ſcorn to bear any ma-"lice. Sophy, do you be a good girl, and do every "thing your aunt orders you."

"I have not the leaſt doubt of her," anſwered Mrs Weſtern. "She hath already an example before her "eyes, in the behaviour of that wretch her couſin Har-

"riet,

"riet, who ruined herſelf by neglecting my advice.—— "O brother, what think you? You was hardly gone "out of hearing, when you ſet out for London, when "who ſhould arrive but that impudent fellow with the "odious Iriſh name—that Fitzpatrick. He broke in ab- "ruptly upon me without notice, or I would not have "ſeen him. He ran on in a long, unintelligible ſtory "about his wife, to which he forced me to give him a "hearing; but I made him very little anſwer, and deli- "vered him the letter from his wife, which I bid him "anſwer himſelf. I ſuppoſe the wretch will endeavour "to find us out; but I beg you will not ſee her, for I "am determined I will not."

"I zee her," anſwered the 'ſquire; "you need not "fear me. I'll gee no encouragement to ſuch undutiful "wenches. It was well for the fellow her huſband I was "not at home. Od rabbit it, he ſhould have taken a "dance thru the horſe-pond, I promiſe un. You zee, "Sophy, what undutifulneſs brings volks to. You have "an example in your own family."

"Brother," cries the aunt, "you need not ſhock my "niece by ſuch odious repetitions. Why will you not "leave every thing entirely to me?" "Well, well; I "wull, I wull," ſaid the 'ſquire.

And now Mrs Weſtern, luckily for Sophia, put an end to the converſation, by ordering chairs to be cal- led. I ſay luckily; for had it continued much longer, freſh matter of diſſention would, moſt probably, have ariſen between the brother and ſiſter; between whom e- ducation and ſex made the only difference; for both were equally violent, and equally poſitive; they had both a vaſt affection for Sophia, and both a ſovereign contempt for each other.

CHAP. V.

In which Jones *receives a letter from* Sophia, *and goes to a play with* Mrs Miller *and* Partridge.

THE arrival of Black George in town, and the good offices which that grateful fellow had promiſed to

to do for his old benefactor, greatly comforted Jones in the midſt of all the anxiety and uneaſineſs which he had ſuffered on the account of Sophia, from whom, by the means of the ſaid George he received the following anſwer to his letter which Sophia, to whom the uſe of pen, ink, and paper was reſtored with her liberty, wrote the very evening when ſhe departed from her confinement.

"SIR,

"As I do not doubt your ſincerity in what you "write, you will be pleaſed to hear that ſome of my af- "flictions are at an end, by the arrival of my aunt Weſ- "tern, with whom I am at preſent, and with whom I "enjoy all the liberty I can deſire. One promiſe my "aunt hath inſiſted upon me making, which is, that I "will not ſee or converſe with any perſon without "her knowledge and conſent. This promiſe I have "moſt ſolemnly given, and ſhall moſt inviolably keep; "and though ſhe hath not expreſsly forbidden me writ- "ing, yet that muſt be an omiſſion from forgetfulneſs; "or this, perhaps, is included in the word converſing. "However, as I cannot but conſider this as a breach of "her generous confidence in my honour, you cannot ex- "pect that I ſhall, after this, continue to write myſelf, "or to receive letters, without her knowledge. A pro- "miſe is with me a very ſacred thing, and to be extend- "ded to every thing underſtood from it, as well as to what "is expreſſed by it; and this conſideration may, per- "haps, on reflection, afford you ſome comfort. But "why ſhould I mention a comfort to you of this kind? "For though there is one thing in which I can never "comply with the beſt of fathers, yet am I firmly re- "ſolved never to act in defiance of him, or to take any "ſtep of conſequence without his conſent. A firm per- "ſuaſion of this, muſt teach you to divert your thoughts "from what fortune hath (perhaps) made impoſſible. "This your own intereſt perſuades you. This may re- "concile, I hope, Mr Allworthy to you; and if it will, "you have my injunctions to purſue it. Accidents have

"laid

" laid ſome obligations on me, and your good intentions " probably more. Fortune may, perhaps, be ſometimes " kinder to us both than at preſent. Believe this, that I " ſhall always think of you as I think you deſerve, " and am,

" SIR,

" Your obliged humble ſervant,

" SOPHIA WESTERN.

" I charge you write to me no more—at preſent at " leaſt: and accept this, which is now of no ſervice to " me, which I know you muſt want, and think you " owe the trifle only to that fortune by which you " found it*."

A child who had juſt learned his letters would have ſpelt this letter out in leſs time than Jones took in reading it. The ſenſations it occaſioned were a mixture of joy and grief; ſomewhat like what divide the mind of a good man when he peruſes the will of his deceaſed friend, in which a large legacy, which his diſtreſſes make the more welcome, is bequeathed to him. Upon the whole, however, he was more pleaſed than diſpleaſed; and indeed the reader may probably wonder that he was diſpleaſed at all; but the reader is not quite ſo much in love as was poor Jones: and love is a diſeaſe which, though it may in ſome inſtances reſemble a conſumption, (which it ſometimes cauſes) in others proceeds in direct oppoſition to it, and particularly in this, that it never flatters itſelf, or ſees any one ſymptom in a favourable light.

One thing gave him complete ſatisfaction, which was, that his miſtreſs had regained her liberty, and was now with a lady where ſhe might at leaſt aſſure herſelf of a decent treatment. Another comfortable circumſtance was the reference which ſhe made to her promiſe of never marrying any other man: for however diſintereſted he might imagine his paſſion, and notwithſtanding all the generous overtures made in his letter, I very much queſtion whether he could have heard a more afflicting piece of news, than that Sophia was married to another, tho' the match had been ever ſo great, and ever ſo likely to end

* Meaning the bank bill for 1,200.

end in making her completely happy. That refined degree of Platonic affection which is abſolutely detached from the fleſh, and is indeed entirely and purely ſpiritual, is a gift confined to the female part of the creation; many of whom I have heard declare, (and doubtleſs with great truth) that they would, with the utmoſt readineſs, reſign a lover to a rival, when ſuch reſignation was proved to be neceſſary for the temporal intereſt of ſuch lover. Hence, therefore, I conclude, that this affection is in nature, though I cannot pretend to ſay I have ever ſeen an inſtance of it.

Mr Jones having ſpent three hours in reading and kiſſing the aforeſaid letter, and being, at laſt, in a ſtate of good ſpirits, from the laſt-mentioned conſiderations, he agreed to carry an appointment, which he had before made, into execution. This was to attend Mrs Miller, and her younger daughter, into the gallery at the play-houſe, and to admit Mr Partridge as one of the company; for as Jones had really that taſte for humour which many affect, he expected to enjoy much entertainment in the criticiſms of Partridge, from whom he expected the ſimple dictates of nature, unimproved indeed, but likewiſe unadulterated by art.

In the firſt row then of the firſt gallery, did Mr Jones, Mrs Miller, her youngeſt daughter, and Partridge, take their places. Partridge immediately declared it was the fineſt place he had ever been in. When the firſt muſic was played, he ſaid, "It was a wonder how ſo ma-"ny fiddlers could play at one time without putting one "another out." While the fellow was lighting the upper candles, he cried out to Mrs Miller, "Look, look, "Madam, the very picture of the man in the end of the "Common Prayer-book, before the gunpowder-treaſon "ſervice:" Nor could he help obſerving with a ſigh, when all the candles were lighted, "That here were "candles enough burnt in one night, to keep an honeſt "poor family for a whole twelvemonth."

As ſoon as the play, which was Hamlet Prince of Denmark, began, Partridge was all attention, nor did he break ſilence till the entrance of the ghoſt; upon which he aſked Jones, "What man that was in the

"ſtrange dreſs, ſomething," ſaid he, "like what I have "ſeen in a picture. Sure it is not armour, is it?" Jones anſwered, "That is the ghoſt;" to which Partridge replied with a ſmile, "Perſuade me to that, Sir, if you "can. Though I can't ſay I ever actually ſaw a ghoſt "in my life, yet I am certain I ſhould know one, if I "ſaw him, better than that comes to. No, no, Sir, "ghoſts don't appear in ſuch dreſſes as that, neither." In this miſtake, which cauſed much laughter in the neighbourhood of Partridge, he was ſuffered to continue, till the ſcene between the ghoſt and Hamlet, when Partridge gave that credit to Mr Garrick, which he had denied to Jones, and fell into ſo violent a trembling, that his knees knocked againſt each other. Jones aſked him what was the matter, and whether he was "afraid of the war-"rior upon the ſtage?" O la! Sir," ſaid he, "I per-"ceive now it is what you told me. I am not afraid of "any thing, for I know it is but a play: and, if it was "really a ghoſt, it could do one no harm at ſuch a di-"ſtance, and in ſo much company; and yet, if I was "frightened, I am not the only perſon." "Why, who," cried Jones, "doſt thou take to be ſuch a coward here be-"ſides thyſelf?" Nay, you may call me coward if you will; "but, if that little man there upon the ſtage is not fright-"ened, I never ſaw any man frightened in my life. "Ay, ay, go along with you! Ay, to be ſure! Who's "fool then? Will you? Lud have mercy upon ſuch "fool-hardineſs!——Whatever happens, it is good "enough for you.——Follow you! I'd follow the Devil "as ſoon. Nay, perhaps it is the devil——for they ſay "he can put on what likeneſs he pleaſes.——Oh! here "he is again.——No farther! No, you have gone far "enough already; farther than I would have gone for "all the king's dominions." Jones offered to ſpeak, but "Partridge cried, "Huſh, huſh, dear Sir, don't you "hear him!" and, during the whole ſpeech of the ghoſt, he ſat with his eyes fixed partly on the ghoſt, and partly on Hamlet, and with his mouth open; the ſame paſſions, which ſucceeded each other in Hamlet, ſucceeded likewiſe in him.

When

When the ſcene was over, Jones ſaid, "Why, Partridge, you exceed my expectations. You enjoy the play more than I conceived poſſible." "Nay, Sir," anſwered Partridge, "if you are not afraid of the devil, I can't help it; but to be ſure it is natural to be ſurpriſed at ſuch things, though I know there is nothing in them; not that it was the ghoſt that ſurpriſed me neither; for I ſhould have known that to have been only a man in a ſtrange dreſs; but when I ſaw the little man ſo frightened himſelf, it was that which took hold of me." And doſt thou imagine then, Partridge," cries Jones, "that he was really frightened?" "Nay, Sir," ſaid Partridge, "did not you yourſelf obſerve afterwards, when he found it was his own father's ſpirit, and how he was murdered in the garden, how his fear forſook him by degrees, and he was ſtruck dumb with ſorrow, as it were, juſt as I ſhould have been had it been my own caſe.—But huſh! O la! what noiſe is that? There he is again.—Well, to be certain, though I know there is nothing at all in it, I am glad that I am not down yonder, where thoſe men are:" Then turning his eyes again upon Hamlet, "Ay, you may draw your ſword; what ſignifies a ſword againſt the power of the Devil?"

During the ſecond act, Partridge made very few remarks. He greatly admired the fineneſs of the dreſſes; nor could he help obſerving upon the king's countenance: "Well," ſaid he, "how people may be deceived by faces? *Nulla fides fronti* is, I find, a true ſaying. Who would think, by looking in the king's face that he had ever committed a murder?" He then inquired after the ghoſt; but Jones, who intended he ſhould be ſurpriſed, gave him no other ſatisfaction, than that "he might poſſibly ſee him again ſoon, and in a flaſh of fire."

Partridge ſat in fearful expectation of this; and now, when the ghoſt made his next appearance, Partridge cried out, "There, Sir, now; what ſay you now? Is he frightened now or no? As much frightened as you think me, and to be ſure nobody can help ſome fears, I would not be in ſo bad a condition, as what's his name, 'Squire Hamlet, is there, for all the world.

" Bleſs me! what's become of the ſpirit? As I am a li-
" ving ſoul I thought I ſaw him ſink into the earth."
" Indeed you ſaw right," anſwered Jones. " Well,
" well," cries Partridge, " I know it is only a play; and
" beſides, if there was any thing in all this, Madam Mil-
" ler would not laugh ſo: for as to you, Sir, you would
" not be afraid, I believe, if the devil was here in per-
" ſon.——There, there—Ay, no wonder you are in
" ſuch a paſſion; ſhake the vile wicked wretch to pieces.
" If ſhe was my own mother, I ſhould ſerve her ſo. To
" be ſure, all duty to a mother is forfeited by ſuch wick-
" ed doings.——Ay, go about your buſineſs; I hate the
" ſight of you."

Our critic was now pretty ſilent till the play, which Hamlet introduces before the king. This he did not at firſt underſtand, till Jones explained it to him; but he no ſooner entered into the ſpirit of it, than he began to bleſs himſelf that he had never committed murder. Then, turning to Mrs Miller, he aſked her, " If ſhe did not
" imagine the king looked as if he was touched, though
" he is," ſaid he, " a good actor, and doth all he can
" to hide it. Well, I would not have ſo much to
" anſwer for as that wicked man there hath, to ſit upon
" a much higher chair than he ſits upon.—No wonder
" he run away; for your ſake I'll never truſt an innocent
" face again."

The grave-digging ſcene next engaged the attention of Partridge, who expreſſed much ſurpriſe at the number of ſkulls thrown upon the ſtage: to which Jones anſwered, " That it was one of the moſt famous burial-
" places about town." " No wonder then," cries Partridge, " that the place is haunted. But I never ſaw in
" my life a worſe grave-digger. I had a ſexton, when I
" was clerk, that ſhould have dug three graves while he
" is digging one. The fellow handles a ſpade as if it
" was the firſt time he had ever had one in his hand.
" Ay, ay, you may ſing. You had rather ſing than
" work, I believe."——Upon Hamlet's taking up the
" ſkull, he cried out, " Well, it is ſtrange to ſee how
" fearleſs ſome men are: I never could bring myſelf to
" touch any thing belonging to a dead man on any ac-
" count.

"count.—He ſeemed frightened enough too at the ghoſt, "I thought. *Nemo omnibus horis ſapit.*"

Little more worth remembering occurred during the play; at the end of which Jones aſked him, "which of the players he had liked beſt?" To this he anſwered, with ſome appearance of indignation at the queſtion, "The king, without doubt." "Indeed, Mr Partridge," ſays Mrs Miller, "you are not of the ſame opinion with "the town; for they are all agreed, that Hamlet is acted "by the beſt player who was ever on the ſtage." "He "the beſt player!" cries Partridge with a contemptuous ſneer, "Why, I could act as well as he myſelf. I am "ſure, if I had ſeen a ghoſt, I ſhould have looked in the "very ſame manner, and done juſt as he did. And "then, to be ſure, in that ſcene, as you called it, be-"tween him and his mother, where you told me he act-"ed ſo fine, why, Lord help me, any man, that is, any "good man, that had ſuch a mother, would have done "exactly the ſame. I know you are only joking with "me; but indeed, Madam, though I was never at a "play at London, yet I have ſeen acting before in the "country; and, the king for my money, he ſpeaks all "his words diſtinctly, half as loud again as the other.—— "Any body may ſee he is an actor."

While Mrs Miller was thus engaged in converſation with Partridge, a lady came up to Mr Jones, whom he immediately knew to be Mrs Fitzpatrick. She ſaid, ſhe had ſeen him from the other part of the gallery, and had taken that opportunity of ſpeaking to him, as ſhe had ſomething to ſay, which might be of great ſervice to himſelf. She then acquainted him with her lodgings, and made him an appointment the next day in the morning; which, upon recollection, ſhe preſently changed to the afternoon, at which time Jones promiſed to attend her.

Thus ended the adventure at the play-houſe; where Partridge had afforded great mirth, not only to Jones and Mrs Miller, but to all who ſat within hearing, who were more attentive to what he ſaid than to any thing that paſſed on the ſtage.

He

He durſt not go to bed all that night for fear of the ghoſt; and for many nights after, ſweated for two or three hours before he went to ſleep with the ſame apprehenſions, and waked ſeveral times in great horrors, crying out, "Lord have mercy on us! there it is."

CHAP. VI.

In which the hiſtory is obliged to go back.

IT is almoſt impoſſible for the beſt parent to obſerve an exact impartiality to his children, even though no ſuperior merit ſhould bias his affection; but ſure a parent can hardly be blamed, when that ſuperiority determines his preference.

As I regard all the perſonages of this hiſtory in the light of my children; ſo I muſt confeſs the ſame inclination of partiality to Sophia; and for that I hope the reader will allow me the ſame excuſe, from the ſuperiority of her character.

This extraordinary tenderneſs which I have for my heroine, never ſuffers me to quit her any long time without the utmoſt reluctance. I could now, therefore, return impatiently to inquire, what hath happened to this lovely creature ſince her departure from her father's, but that I am obliged firſt to pay a ſhort viſit to Mr Blifil.

Mr Weſtern, in the firſt confuſion into which his mind was caſt, upon the ſudden news he received of his daughter, and in the firſt hurry to go after her, had not once thought of ſending any account of the diſcovery to Blifil. He had not gone far, however, before he recollected himſelf, and accordingly ſtopt at the very firſt inn he came to, and diſpatched away a meſſenger to acquaint Blifil with his having found Sophia, and with his firm reſolution to marry her to him immediately, if he would come up after him to town.

As the love which Blifil had for Sophia was of that violent kind, which nothing but the loſs of her fortune, or ſome ſuch accident, could leſſen, his inclination to the match was not at all altered by her having run away, though

though he was obliged to lay this to his own account. He very readily, therefore, embraced this offer. Indeed, he now propoſed the gratification of a very ſtrong paſſion beſides avarice, by marrying this young lady, and this was hatred: for he concluded that matrimony afforded an equal opportunity of ſatisfying either hatred or love; and this opinion is very probably verified by much experience. To ſay the truth, if we are to judge by the ordinary behaviour of married perſons to each other, we ſhall perhaps be apt to conclude, that the generality ſeek the indulgence of the former paſſion only in their union of every thing but of hearts.

There was one difficulty, however, in his way, and this aroſe from Mr Allworthy. That good man, when he found by the departure of Sophia, (for neither that, nor the cauſe of it, could be concealed from him) the great averſion which ſhe had for his nephew, began to be ſeriouſly concerned that he had been deceived into carrying matters ſo far. He by no means concurred with the opinion of thoſe parents, who think it as immaterial to conſult the inclinations of their children in the affair of marriage, as to ſolicit the good pleaſure of their ſervants when they intend to take a journey; and who are, by law or decency at leaſt, with-held often from uſing abſolute force. On the contrary, as he eſteemed the inſtitution to be of the moſt ſacred kind, he thought every preparatory caution neceſſary to preſerve it holy and inviolate, and very wiſely concluded, that the ſureſt way to effect this, was by laying the foundation in previous affection.

Blifil indeed ſoon cured his uncle of all anger on the ſcore of deceit, by many vows and proteſtations that he had been deceived himſelf, with which the many declarations of Weſtern very well tallied; but now to perſuade Allworthy to conſent to the renewing his addreſſes, was a matter of ſuch apparent difficulty, that the very appearance was ſufficient to have deterred a leſs enterprizing genius; but this young gentleman ſo well knew his own talents, that nothing within the province of cunning ſeemed to him hard to be atchieved.

Here

Here then he repreſented the violence of his own affection, and the hopes of ſubduing averſion in the lady by perſeverance. He begged that in an affair on which depended all his future repoſe, he might at leaſt be at liberty to try all fair means for ſucceſs. Heaven forbid, he ſaid, that he ſhould ever think of prevailing by any other than the moſt gentle methods! "Beſides, Sir," ſaid he, "if they fail, you may then (which will be ſurely time "enough) deny your conſent." He urged the great and eager deſire which Mr Weſtern had for the match; and, laſtly, he made great uſe of the name of Jones, to whom he imputed all that had happened; and from whom, he ſaid, to preſerve ſo valuable a young lady was even an act of charity.

All theſe arguments were well ſeconded by Thwackum, who dwelt a little ſtronger on the authority of parents than Mr Blifil himſelf had done. He aſcribed the meaſures which Mr Blifil was deſirous to take, to chriſtian motives; "and though," ſays he, "the good young "gentleman hath mentioned charity laſt, I am almoſt "convinced it is his firſt and principal conſideration."

Square, poſſibly, had he been preſent, would have ſung to the ſame tune, though in a different key, and would have diſcovered much moral fitneſs in the proceeding; but he was now gone to Bath for the recovery of his health.

Allworthy, though not without reluctance, at laſt yielded to the deſires of his nephew. He ſaid he would accompany him to London, where he might be at liberty to uſe every honeſt endeavour to gain the lady: "But I "declare," ſaid he, "I will never give my conſent to "any abſolute force being put on her inclinations, nor "ſhall you ever have her, unleſs ſhe can be brought "freely to compliance."

Thus did the affection of Allworthy for his nephew betray the ſuperior underſtanding to be triumphed over by the inferior; and thus is the prudence of the beſt of heads often defeated, by the tenderneſs of the beſt of hearts.

Blifil having obtained this unhoped-for acquieſcence in his uncle, reſted not till he carried his purpoſe into execution.

cution. And as no immediate buſineſs required Mr Allworthy's preſence in the country, and little preparation is neceſſary to men for a journey, they ſet out the very next day, and arrived in town, that evening, when Mr Jones, as we have ſeen, was diverting himſelf with Partridge, at the play.

The morning after his arrival Mr Blifil waited on Mr Weſtern, by whom he was moſt kindly and graciouſly received, and from whom he had every poſſible aſſurance (perhaps more than was poſſible) that he ſhould very ſhortly be as happy as Sophia could make him; nor would the 'ſquire ſuffer the young gentleman to return to his uncle, till he had, almoſt againſt his will, carried him to his ſiſter.

CHAP. VII.

In which Mr Weſtern *pays a Viſit to his ſiſter, in company with Mr* Blifil.

MRS WESTERN was reading a lecture on prudence, and matrimonial politics, to her niece, when her brother and Blifil broke in with leſs ceremony than the laws of viſiting require. Sophia no ſooner ſaw Blifil, than ſhe turned pale, and almoſt loſt the uſe of all her faculties; but her aunt, on the contrary, waxed red, and having all her faculties at command, began to exert her tongue on the 'ſquire.

"Brother," ſaid ſhe, "I am aſtoniſhed at your beha-
"viour, will you never learn any regard to decorum?
"Will you ſtill look upon every apartment as your own,
"or as belonging to one of your country tenants? Do
"you think yourſelf at liberty to invade the privacies of
"women of condition, without the leaſt decency or no-
"tice?"——"Why, what a pox is the matter now?" quoth the 'ſquire, "one would think I had caught you "at"—"None of your brutality, Sir, I beſeech you," anſwered ſhe.——"You have ſurpriſed my poor niece "ſo, that ſhe can hardly, I ſee, ſupport herſelf.——Go, "my dear, retire, and endeavour to recruit your ſpirits; "for I ſee you have occaſion." At which words, So-

phia, who never received a more welcome command, haſtily withdrew.

"To be ſure, ſiſter," cries the 'ſquire, "you are mad, "when I have brought Mr Blifil here to court her, to "force her away."

"Sure, brother," ſays ſhe, "you are worſe than "mad, when you know in what ſituation affairs are, to "——I am ſure, I aſk Mr Blifil pardon, but he knows "very well to whom to impute ſo diſagreeable a recep- "tion. For my own part, I am ſure, I ſhall always be "glad to ſee Mr Blifil; but his own good ſenſe would "not have ſuffered him to proceed ſo abruptly, had you "not compelled him to it"

Blifil bowed, and ſtammered, and looked like a fool; but Weſtern, without giving him time to form a ſpeech for the purpoſe, anſwered, "Well, well, I am to blame "if you will, I always am, certainly; but come, let the "girl be fetched back again, or let Mr Blifil go to her. "——He's come up on purpoſe, and there is no time to "be loſt."

"Brother," cries Mrs Weſtern, "Mr Blifil, I am "confident, underſtands himſelf better than to think of "ſeeing my niece any more this morning after what "hath happened. Women are of a nice contexture; "and our ſpirits, when diſordered, are not to be recom- "poſed in a moment. Had you ſuffered Mr Blifil to "have ſent his compliments to my niece, and to have "deſired the favour of waiting on her in the afternoon, "I ſhould poſſibly have prevailed on her to have ſeen "him; but now I deſpair of bringing about any ſuch "matter."

"I am very ſorry, Madam," cried Blifil, "that Mr "Weſtern's extraordinary kindneſs to me, which I can "never enough acknowledge, ſhould have occaſioned "—" "Indeed Sir," ſaid ſhe, interrupting him, "you "need make no apologies, we all know my brother ſo "well."

"I don't care what any body knows of me," anſwer- ed the 'ſquire;——"but when muſt he come to ſee her? "for conſider, I tell you, he is come up on purpoſe, and "ſo is Allworthy." "Brother," ſaid ſhe, "whatever

"meſſage

"meſſage Mr Blifil thinks proper to ſend to my niece, "ſhall be delivered to her; and I ſuppoſe ſhe will want "no inſtructions to make a proper anſwer. I am con-"vinced ſhe will not refuſe to ſee Mr Blifil at a proper "time."——"The devil ſhe won't," anſwered the 'ſquire.—"Odſbub!——Don't we know——I ſay no-"thing, but ſome volk are wiſer than all the world.—— "If I might have had my will, ſhe had not run away "before; and now I expect to hear every moment ſhe "is gone again. For as great a fool as ſome volk "think me, I know very well ſhe hates"——"No mat-"ter, brother," replied Mrs Weſtern, "I will not hear "my niece abuſed. It is a reflection on my family. "She is an honour to it; and ſhe will be an honour to "it, I promiſe you. I will pawn my whole reputation "in the world on her conduct.——I ſhall be glad to ſee "you, brother, in the afternoon; for I have ſomewhat "of importance to mention to you.——At preſent, Mr "Blifil, as well as you, muſt excuſe me, for I am in "haſte to dreſs.——"Well, but," ſaid the 'ſquire, "do "appoint a time."——"Indeed," ſaid ſhe, "I can ap-"point no time.——I tell you, I will ſee you in the af-"ternoon."——"What the devil would you have me "do?" cries the 'ſquire, turning to Blifil, "I can no "more turn her, than a beagle can turn an old hare. "Perhaps ſhe will be in better humour in the after-"noon."——"I am condemned, I ſee, Sir, to misfor-"tune," anſwered Blifil; "but I ſhall always own my "obligations to you."—He then took a ceremonious leave of Mrs Weſtern, who was altogether as ceremonious on her part; and then they departed, the 'ſquire muttering to himſelf with an oath, that Blifil ſhould ſee his daugh-ter in the afternoon.

If Mr Weſtern was little pleaſed with this interview, Blifil was leſs. As to the former, he imputed the whole behaviour of his ſiſter to her humour only, and to her diſſatisfaction at the omiſſion of ceremony in the viſit; but Blifil ſaw a little deeper into things. He ſuſpected ſomewhat of more conſequence, from two or three words which dropt from the lady; and, to ſay the truth, he ſuſ-pected right, as will appear when I have unfolded the

ſeveral matters which will be contained in the following chapter.

CHAP. VIII.

Schemes of Lady Bellaſton *for the ruin of* Jones.

LOVE had taken too deep a root in the mind of Lord Fellamar to be plucked up by the rude hands of Mr Weſtern. In the heat of reſentment he had indeed given a commiſſion to Captain Egglane, which the captain had far exceeded in the execution; nor had it been executed at all had his lordſhip been able to find the captain after he had ſeen Lady Bellaſton, which was in the afternoon of the day after he had received the affront; but ſo induſtrious was the captain in the diſcharge of his duty, that having after long inquiry found out the 'ſquire's lodgings very late in the evening, he ſat up all night at a tavern, that he might not miſs the 'ſquire in the morning, and by that means miſſed the revocation which my lord had ſent to his lodgings.

In the afternoon then next after the intended rape of Sophia, his lordſhip, as we have ſaid, made a viſit to lady Bellaſton, who laid open ſo much of the character of the 'ſquire, that his lordſhip plainly ſaw the abſurdity he had been guilty of in taking any offence at his words, eſpecially as he had thoſe honourable deſigns on his daughter. He then unboſomed the violence of his paſſion to Lady Bellaſton, who readily undertook the cauſe, and encouraged him with certain aſſurances of a moſt favourable reception from all the elders of the family, and from the father himſelf when he ſhould be ſober, and ſhould be made acquainted with the nature of the offer made to his daughter. The only danger, ſhe ſaid, lay in the fellow he had formerly mentioned, who, though a beggar and vagabond, had, by ſome means or other, ſhe knew not what, procured himſelf tolerable clothes, and paſt for a gentleman. "Now," ſays ſhe, "as I have, for the ſake "of my couſin, made it my buſineſs to inquire after this "fellow, I have luckily found out his lodgings;" with which ſhe then acquainted his lordſhip. "I am think-

"ing,

" ing, my lord," added ſhe, " (for this fellow is too " mean for your perſonal reſentment), whether it would " not be poſſible for your lordſhip to contrive ſome me- " thod of having him preſſed and ſent on board a ſhip. " Neither law nor conſcience forbid this project: for the " fellow, I promiſe you, however well dreſt, is but a va- " gabond, and as proper as any fellow in the ſtreets to " be preſſed into the ſervice; and, as for the conſcien- " tious part, ſurely the preſervation of a young lady from " ſuch ruin is a moſt meritorious act; nay, with regard to " the fellow himſelf, unleſs he could ſucceed (which " Heaven forbid) with my couſin, it may probably be " the means of preſerving him from the gallows, and " perhaps may make his fortune in an honeſt way."

Lord Fellamar very heartily thanked her ladyſhip for the part which ſhe was pleaſed to take in the affair, upon the ſucceſs of which his whole future happineſs entirely depended. He ſaid, he ſaw at preſent no objection to the preſſing ſcheme, and would conſider of putting it in execution. He then moſt earneſtly recommended to her ladyſhip, to do him the honour of immediately mentioning his propoſals to the family, to whom, he ſaid, he offered a *carte blanche*, and would ſettle his fortune in almoſt any manner they ſhould require: and, after uttering many ecſtacies and raptures concerning Sophia, he took his leave and departed, but not before he had received the ſtrongeſt charge to beware of Jones, and to loſe no time in ſecuring his perſon, where he ſhould no longer be in a capacity of making any attempts to the ruin of the young lady.

The moment Mrs Weſtern was arrived at her loddings, a card was diſpatched with her compliments to Lady Bellaſton, who no ſooner received it, than, with, the impatience of a lover, ſhe flew to her couſin, rejoiced at this fair opportunity, which beyond her hopes offered itſelf; for ſhe was much better pleaſed with the proſpect of making the propoſals to a woman of ſenſe, and who knew the world, than to a gentleman whom ſhe honoured with the appellation of Hottentot, though indeed from him ſhe apprehended no danger of a refuſal.

The

The two ladies being met, after very ſhort previous ceremonials, fell to buſineſs, which was indeed almoſt as ſoon concluded as begun; for Mrs Weſtern no ſooner heard the name of Lord Fellamar, than her cheeks glowed with pleaſure; but when ſhe was acquainted with the eagerneſs of his paſſion, the earneſtneſs of his propoſals, and the generoſity of his offer, ſhe declared her full ſatisfaction in the moſt explicit terms.

In the progreſs of their converſation, their diſcourſe turned to Jones, and both couſins very pathetically lamented the unfortunate attachment which both agreed Sophia had to that young fellow; and Mrs Weſtern entirely attributed it to the folly of her brother's management. She concluded, however, at laſt, with declaring her confidence in the good underſtanding of her niece, "who, though ſhe would give up her affection in favour "of Blifil, will, I doubt not," ſays ſhe, "ſoon be prevailed upon to ſacrifice a ſimple inclination to the addreſſes of a fine gentleman, who brings her both a title "and a large eſtate: For indeed," added ſhe, "I muſt "do Sophia the juſtice to confeſs, this Blifil is but a hideous kind of a fellow, as you know, Bellaſton, all "country gentlemen are, and hath nothing but his fortune to recommend him."

"Nay," ſaid Lady Bellaſton, "I don't then ſo much "wonder at my couſin; for I promiſe you this Jones "is a very agreeable fellow, and hath one virtue which "the men ſay is a great recommendation to us. What "do you think Mrs Weſtern——I ſhall certainly make "you laugh; nay, I can hardly tell you myſelf for laughing.——Will you believe that the fellow hath had the "aſſurance to make love to me? But if you ſhould be "inclined to diſbelieve it, here is evidence enough, his "own hand-writing, I aſſure you." She then delivered her couſin the letter with the propoſals of marriage, which, if the reader hath a deſire to ſee, he will find already on record in the 15th book of this hiſtory.

"Upon my word, I am aſtoniſhed," ſaid Mrs Weſtern, "this is indeed a maſter-piece of aſſurance. With "your leave, I may poſſibly make ſome uſe of this letter." "You have my full liberty," cries lady Bellaſton,

laſton, "to apply it to what purpoſe you pleaſe. How"
"ever, I would not have it ſhewn to any but Miſs
"Weſtern, nor to her, unleſs you find occaſion."——
"Well, and how did you uſe the fellow?" returned
Mrs Weſtern. "Not as a huſband," ſaid the lady; "I
"am not married, I promiſe you, my dear. You
"know, Mrs Weſtern, I have tried the comforts once
"already; and once I think is enough for any reaſon-
"able woman."

This letter Lady Bellaſton thought would certainly turn the balance againſt Jones in the mind of Sophia, and ſhe was emboldened to give it up, partly by her hopes of having him inſtantly diſpatched out of the way, and partly by having ſecured the evidence of Honour, who, upon ſounding her, ſhe ſaw ſufficient reaſon to imagine was prepared to teſtify whatever ſhe pleaſed.

But perhaps the reader may wonder why Lady Bellaſton, who in her heart hated Sophia, ſhould be ſo deſirous of promoting a match which was ſo much to the intereſt of the young lady. Now, I would deſire ſuch readers to look carefully into human nature, page almoſt the laſt, and there he will find, in ſcarce legible characters, that women, notwithſtanding the prepoſterous behaviour of mothers, aunts, &c. in matrimonial matters, do in reality think it ſo great a misfortune to have their inclinations in love thwarted, that they imagine they ought never to carry enmity higher than upon theſe diſappointments: again, he will find it written much about the ſame place, that a woman, who hath once been pleaſed with the poſſeſſion of a man, will go above half way to the Devil to prevent any other woman from enjoying the ſame.

If he will not be contented with theſe reaſons, I freely confeſs I ſee no other motive to the actions of that lady, unleſs we will conceive ſhe was bribed by Lord Fellamar, which for my own part I ſee no cauſe to ſuſpect.

Now this was the affair which Mrs Weſtern was preparing to introduce to Sophia, by ſome prefatory diſcourſe on the folly of love, and on the wiſdom of legal proſtitution

ſtitution for hire, when her brother and Blifil broke abruptly in upon her; and hence aroſe all that coldneſs in her behaviour to Blifil, which, though the 'ſquire, as was uſual with him, imputed to a wrong cauſe, infuſed into Blifil himſelf (he being a much more cunning man) a ſuſpicion of the real truth.

CHAP IX.

In which Jones *pays a viſit to Mrs* Fitzpatrick.

THE reader may now perhaps be pleaſed to return with us to Mr Jones, who at the appointed hour attended on Mrs Fitzpatrick: but before we relate the converſation which now paſt, it may be proper, according to our method, to return a little back, and to account for ſo great an alteration of behaviour in this lady, that, from changing her lodging principally to avoid Mr Jones, ſhe had now induſtriouſly, as hath been ſeen, ſought this interview.

And here we ſhall need only to reſort to what happened the preceding day, when hearing from Lady Bellaſton that Mr Weſtern was arrived in town, ſhe went to pay her duty to him at his lodgings at Piccadilly, where ſhe was received with many ſcurvy compellations too coarſe to be repeated, and was even threatened to be kicked out of doors. From hence an old ſervant of her aunt Weſtern, with whom ſhe was well acquainted, conducted her to the lodgings of that lady, who treated her not more kindly, but more politely, or, to ſay the truth, with rudeneſs in another way. In ſhort, ſhe returned from both, plainly convinced, not only that her ſcheme of reconciliation had proved abortive, but that ſhe muſt for ever give over all thoughts of bringing it about by any means whatever. From this moment deſire of revenge only filled her mind; and in this temper, meeting Jones at the play, an opportunity ſeemed to her to occur of effecting this purpoſe.

The reader muſt remember that he was acquainted by Mrs Fitzpatrick, in the account ſhe gave of her own ſtory, with the fondneſs Mrs Weſtern had formerly ſhewn

ſhewn for Mr Fitzpatrick at Bath, from the diſappointment of which, Mrs Fitzpatrick derived the great bitterneſs her aunt had expreſſed toward her. She had therefore no doubt but that the good lady would as eaſily liſten to the addreſſes of Mr Jones, as ſhe had before done to the other; for the ſuperiority of charms was clearly on the ſide of Mr Jones; and the advance which her aunt had ſince made in age, ſhe concluded, (how juſtly I will not ſay) was an argument rather in favour of her project than againſt it.

Therefore when Jones attended, after a previous declaration of her deſire of ſerving him, ariſing, as ſhe ſaid, from a firm aſſurance how much ſhe ſhould, by ſo doing, oblige Sophia: and after ſome excuſes for her former diſappointment, and after acquainting Mr Jones in whoſe cuſtody his miſtreſs was, of which ſhe thought him ignorant; ſhe very explicitly mentioned her ſcheme to him, and adviſed him to make ſham addreſſes to the older lady, in order to procure an eaſy acceſs to the younger, informing him at the ſame time of the ſucceſs which Mr Fitzpatrick had formerly owed to the very ſame ſtratagem.

Mr Jones expreſſed great gratitude to the lady for the kind intentions towards him which ſhe had expreſſed, and indeed teſtified, by this propoſal; but beſides intimating ſome diffidence of ſucceſs from the lady's knowledge of his love to her niece, which had not been her caſe in regard to Mr Fitzpatrick, he ſaid, he was afraid Miſs Weſtern would never agree to an impoſition of this kind, as well from her utter deteſtation of all fallacy, as from her avowed duty to her aunt.

Mrs Fitzpatrick was a little nettled at this; and indeed, if it may not be called a lapſe of the tongue, it was a ſmall deviation from politeneſs in Jones, and into which he ſcarce would have fallen, had not the delight he felt in praiſing Sophia, hurried him out of all reflection; for this commendation of one couſin was more than a tacit rebuke on the other.

"Indeed, Sir," anſwered the lady with ſome warmth, "I cannot think there is any thing eaſier than to cheat "an old woman with a profeſſion of love, when her

" complexion is amorous: and though ſhe is my aunt, " I muſt ſay there never was a more liquoriſh one than " her ladyſhip. Can't you pretend that the deſpair of " poſſeſſing her niece, from her being promiſed to Blifil, " has made you turn your thoughts towards her? As to " my couſin Sophia, I can't imagine her to be ſuch a " ſimpleton as to have the leaſt ſcruple on ſuch an ac- " count, or to conceive any harm in puniſhing one of " theſe hags for the many miſchiefs they bring upon fa- " milies, by their tragi-comic paſſions; for which I think " it is pity they are not puniſhable by law. I had no " ſuch ſcruple myſelf; and yet I hope my couſin Sophia " will not think it an affront when I ſay ſhe cannot de- " teſt every real ſpecies of falſehood more than her cou- " ſin Fitzpatrick. To my aunt indeed I pretend no du- " ty, nor doth ſhe deſerve any. However, Sir, I have " given you my advice, and if you decline purſuing it, " I ſhall have the leſs opinion of your underſtanding— " that's all."

Jones now clearly ſaw the error he had committed, and exerted his utmoſt power to rectify it; but he only faultered and ſtuttered into nonſenſe and contradiction. To ſay the truth, it is often ſafer to abide by the conſequences of the firſt blunder, than to endeavour to rectify it; for by ſuch endeavours we generally plunge deeper inſtead of extricating ourſelves; and few perſons will on ſuch occaſions have the good nature which Mrs Fitzpatrick diſplayed to Jones, by ſaying, with a ſmile, " You " need attempt no more excuſes; for I can eaſily forgive " a real lover, whatever is the effect of fondneſs for his " miſtreſs."

She then renewed her propoſal, and very fervently recommended it, omitting no argument which her invention could ſuggeſt on the ſubject; for ſhe was ſo violently incenſed againſt her aunt, that ſcarce any thing was capable of affording her equal pleaſure with expoſing her; and, like a true woman, ſhe would ſee no difficulties in the execution of a favourite ſcheme.

Jones however perſiſted in declining the undertaking, which had not indeed the leaſt probability of ſucceſs. He eaſily perceived the motives which induced Mrs Fitz-

patrick

patrick to be ſo eager in preſſing her advice. He ſaid, he would not deny the tender and paſſionate regard he had for Sophia; but was ſo conſcious of the inequality of their ſituations, that he could never flatter himſelf ſo far as to hope, that ſo divine a young lady would condeſcend to think on ſo unworthy a man; nay, he proteſted he could ſcarce bring himſelf to wiſh ſhe ſhould. He concluded with a profeſſion of generous ſentiments, which we have not at preſent leiſure to inſert.

There are ſome fine women, (for I dare not here ſpeak in too general terms) with whom ſelf is ſo predominant, that they never detach it from any ſubject; and as vanity is with them a ruling principle, they are apt to lay hold of whatever praiſe they meet with; and, though the property of others, convey it to their own uſe. In the company of theſe ladies it is impoſſible to ſay any thing handſome of another woman, which they will not apply to themſelves; nay, they often improve the praiſe they ſeize; as for inſtance, if her beauty, her wit, her gentility, her good humour, deſerve ſo much commendation, what do I deſerve who poſſeſs thoſe qualities in ſo much more eminent a degree?

To theſe ladies a man often recommends himſelf while he is commending another woman; and while he is expreſſing ardour and generous ſentiments for his miſtreſs, they are conſidering what a charming lover this man would make to them, who can feel all this tenderneſs for an inferior degree of merit. Of this, ſtrange as it may ſeem, I have ſeen many inſtances beſides Mrs Fitzpatrick, to whom all this really happened, and who now began to feel a ſomewhat for Mr Jones, the ſymptoms of which ſhe much ſooner underſtood than poor Sophia had formerly done.

To ſay the truth, perfect beauty in both ſexes is a more irreſiſtible object than it is generally thought; for notwithſtanding ſome of us are contented with more homely lots, and learn by rote (as children are to repeat what gives them no idea) to deſpiſe outſide, and to value more ſolid charms; yet I have always obſerved at the approach of conſummate beauty, that theſe more ſolid

charms only ſhine with that kind of luſtre which the ſtars have after the riſing of the ſun.

When Jones had finiſhed his exclamations, many of which would have become the mouth of Oroondates himſelf, Mrs Fitzpatrick heaved a deep ſigh, and taking her eyes off from Jones, on whom they had been ſometime fixed, and dropping them on the ground, ſhe cried, "Indeed Mr Jones, I pity you; but it is the curſe "of ſuch tenderneſs to be thrown away on thoſe who are "inſenſible of it. I know my couſin better than you, Mr "Jones, and I muſt ſay, any woman who makes no re-"turn to ſuch a paſſion, and ſuch a perſon, is unworthy "of both."

"Sure, Madam," ſays Jones, "you can't mean'——"Mean," cries Mrs Fitzpatrick, "I know not what I "mean; there is ſomething, I think, in true tenderneſs "bewitching: few women ever meet with it in men, and "fewer ſtill know how to value it when they do. I "never heard ſuch truly noble ſentiments, and I can't "tell how it is, but you force one to believe you. Sure "ſhe muſt be the moſt contemptible of women who can "overlook ſuch merit.

The manner and look with which all this was ſpoke, infuſed a ſuſpicion into Jones, which we don't care to convey in direct words to the reader. Inſtead of making any anſwer, he ſaid, "I am afraid, Madam, I have made too "tireſome a viſit, and offered to take his leave."

"Not at all, Sir," anſwered Mrs Fitzpatrick.——"In-"deed I pity you, Mr Jones; indeed I do; but if you "are going, conſider of the ſcheme I have mentioned. "I am convinced you will approve of it, and let me ſee "you again as ſoon as you can.——To-morrow morning "if you will, or at leaſt ſome time to-morrow. I ſhall "be at home all day."

Jones then, after many expreſſions of thanks, very reſpectfully retired; nor could Mrs Fitzpatrick forbear making him a preſent of a look at parting, by which if he had underſtood nothing, he muſt have had no underſtanding in the language of the eyes. In reality it confirmed his reſolution of returning to her no more; for, faulty as he hath hitherto appeared in this hiſtory, his whole thoughts were

were now ſo confined to his Sophia, that I believe no woman upon earth could have now drawn him into an act of inconſtancy.

Fortune, however, who was not his friend, reſolved, as he intended to give her no ſecond opportunity, to make the beſt of this; and accordingly produced the tragical incident which we are now in ſorrowful notes to record.

CHAP. X.

The conſequence of the preceding Viſit.

MR Fitzpatrick having received the letter before mentioned, from Mrs Weſtern, and being by that means acquainted with the place to which his wife was retired, returned directly to Bath, and thence the day after ſet forward to London.

The reader hath been already often informed of the jealous temper of this gentleman. He may likewiſe be pleaſed to remember the ſuſpicion which he had conceived of Jones at Upton, upon his finding him in the room with Mrs Waters; and though ſufficient reaſons had afterwards appeared entirely to clear up that ſuſpicion, yet now the reading ſo handſome a character of Mr Jones from his wife, cauſed him to reflect, that ſhe likewiſe was in the inn at the ſame time, and jumbled together ſuch a confuſion of circumſtances in a head which was naturally none of the cleareſt, that the whole produced that green-eyed monſter mentioned by Shakeſpeare in his tragedy of Othello.

And now, as he was inquiring in the ſtreet after his wife, and had juſt received directions to the door, unfortunately Mr Jones was iſſuing from it.

Fitzpatrick did not yet recollect the face of Jones; however, ſeeing a young well dreſſed fellow coming from his wife, he made directly up to him, and aſked him what he had been doing in that houſe; "for I am "ſure," ſaid he, "you muſt have been in it, as I ſaw you come out of it.

Jones

Jones anſwered very modeſtly, "That he had been "viſiting a lady there." To which Fitzpatrick replied, "What buſineſs have you with the lady?" Upon which Jones, who now perfectly remembered his voice, features, and indeed coat of the gentleman, cried out,—"Ha! my good friend, give me your hand; I hope "there is no ill blood remaining between us, upon a "ſmall miſtake which happened ſo long ago."

"Upon my ſoul, Sir," ſaid Fitzpatrick, "I don't "know your name, nor your face." "Indeed, Sir," ſaid Jones, "neither have I the pleaſure of knowing "your name, but your face I very well remember to "have ſeen before at Upton, where a fooliſh quarrel "happened between us, which, if it is not made up yet, "we will now make it up over a bottle."

"At Upton!" cried the other.——"Ha! upon my "ſoul, I believe your name is Jones." "Indeed," anſwered he, "it is."——"O, upon my ſoul," cries Fitzpatrick, "you are the very man I wanted to meet.—— "Upon my ſoul, I will drink a bottle with you preſently; but firſt I will give you a great knock over the "pate. There is for you, you raſcal. Upon my ſoul "if you don't give me ſatisfaction for that blow, I will "give you another." And then drawing his ſword put himſelf in a poſture of defence, which was the only ſcience he underſtood.

Jones was a little ſtaggered by the blow, which came ſomewhat unexpectedly: but preſently recovering himſelf, he alſo drew, and though he underſtood nothing of fencing, preſt on ſo boldly upon Fitzpatrick, that he beat down his guard, and ſheathed one half of his ſword in the body of the ſaid gentleman, who had no ſooner received it, than he ſtept backwards, dropt the point of his ſword, and leaning upon it, cried, "I have ſatisfaction enough; "I am a dead man."

"I hope not," cries Jones; "but whatever be the "conſequence, you muſt be ſenſible you have drawn it "upon yourſelf." At this inſtant a number of fellows ruſhed in and ſeized Jones, who told them, he ſhould make no reſiſtance, and begged ſome of them at leaſt would take care of the wounded gentleman.

"Ay,"

"Ay," cries one of the fellows, "the wounded gen-
"tleman will be taken care enough of, for I ſuppoſe
"he hath not many hours to live. As for you, Sir, you
"have a month at leaſt good yet." "D—n me, Jack,"
ſaid another, "he hath prevented his voyage; he's
"bound to another port now;" and many other ſuch
jeſts was our poor Jones made the ſubject of, by theſe
fellows, who were indeed the gang employed by Lord
Fellamar, and had dogged him into the houſe of Mrs
Fitzpatrick, waiting for him at the corner of the ſtreet
when this unfortunate accident happened.

The officer who commanded this gang very wiſely
concluded that his buſineſs was now to deliver his priſoner
into the hands of the civil magiſtrate. He ordered him
therefore to be carried to a public houſe, where having
ſent for a conſtable, he delivered him to his cuſtody.

The conſtable ſeeing Mr Jones very well dreſt, and
hearing that the accident had happened in a duel, treat-
ed his priſoner with great civility, and, at his requeſt,
diſpatched a meſſenger to inquire after the wounded gen-
tleman, who was now at a tavern under the ſurgeon's
hands. The report brought back was, that the wound
was certainly mortal, and there were no hopes of life. Up-
on which the conſtable informed Jones, that he muſt go
before a juſtice. He anſwered, "Wherever you pleaſe:
"I am indifferent as to what happens to me; for though
"I am convinced I am not guilty of murder in the eye
"of the law, yet the weight of blood I find intolerable
"upon my mind."

Jones was now conducted before the juſtice, where the
ſurgeon who dreſſed Mr Fitzpatrick appeared, and depo-
ſed, that he believed the wound to be mortal; upon
which the priſoner was committed to the Gate-houſe.
It was very late at night, ſo that Jones would not ſend
for Partridge till the next morning; and as he never
ſhut his eyes till ſeven, ſo it was near twelve before the
poor fellow, who was greatly frightened at not hearing
from his maſter ſo long, received a meſſage which almoſt
deprived him of his being, when he heard it.

He went to the Gate-houſe with trembling knees and
a beating heart, and was no ſooner arrived in the pre-
ſence

ſence of Jones, than he lamented the misfortune that had befallen him, with many tears, looking all the time frequently about him in great terror; for as the news now arrived that Mr Fitzpatrick was dead, the poor fellow apprehended every minute that his ghoſt would enter the room. At laſt he delivered him a letter, which he had like to have forgot, and which came from Sophia, by the hands of Black George.

Jones preſently diſpatched every one out of the room, and having eagerly broke open the letter, read as follows:

"You owe the hearing from me again to an acci-
"dent which I own ſurprizes me. My aunt hath juſt
"now ſhewn me a letter from you to Lady Bellaſton,
"which contains a propoſal of marriage. I am convin-
"ced it is your own hand; and what more ſurprizes
"me is, that it is dated at the very time when you would
"have me imagine you was under ſuch concern on my
"account.—I leave you to comment on this fact. All
"I deſire is, that your name may never more be men-
"tioned to S. W.

Of the preſent ſituation of Mr Jones's mind, and of the pangs with which he was now tormented, we cannot give the reader a better idea, than by ſaying, his miſery was ſuch, that even, Thwackum would almoſt have pitied him. But bad as it is, we ſhall at preſent leave him in it, as his good genius (if he really had any) ſeems to have done. And here we put an end to the ſixteenth book of our hiſtory.

THE

THE

HISTORY

OF A

FOUNDLING.

BOOK XVII.

CONTAINING THREE DAYS.

CHAP. I.

Containing a portion of introductory Writing.

WHEN a comic writer hath made his principal characters as happy as he can, or when a tragic writer hath brought them to the higheſt pitch of human miſery, they both conclude their buſineſs to be done, and that their work is come to a period.

Had he been of the tragic complexion, the reader muſt now allow we were very nearly arrived at this period, ſince it would be difficult for the Devil, or any of his repreſentatives on earth, to have contrived much greater torments for poor Jones than thoſe in which we left him in the laſt chapter; and as for Sophia, a good-natured woman would hardly wiſh more uneaſineſs to a rival, than what ſhe muſt at preſent be ſuppoſed to feel. What then remains to complete the tragedy but a murder or two, and a few moral ſentences.

But to bring our favourites out of their preſent anguiſh and diſtreſs, and to land them at laſt on the ſhore

of happineſs, ſeems a much harder taſk; a taſk indeed ſo hard, that we do not undertake to execute it. In regard to Sophia, it is more than probable that we ſhall ſomewhere or other provide a good huſband for her in the end, either Blifil, or my lord, or ſomebody elſe; but, as to poor Jones, ſuch are the calamities in which he is at preſent involved, owing to his imprudence, by which, if a man doth not become a felon to the world, he is at leaſt a *felo de ſe;* ſo deſtitute is he now of friends, and ſo perſecuted by enemies, that we almoſt deſpair of bringing him to any good; and, if our reader delights in ſeeing executions, I think he ought not to loſe any time in taking a firſt row at Tyburn.

This I faithfully promiſe, that notwithſtanding any affection which we may be ſuppoſed to have for this rogue, whom we have unfortunately made our hero, we will lend him none of that ſupernatural aſſiſtance, with which we are intruſted upon condition that we uſe it only on very important occaſions. If he doth not therefore find ſome natural means of fairly extricating himſelf from all his diſtreſſes, we will do no violence to the truth and dignity of hiſtory for his ſake; for we had rather relate that he was hanged at Tyburn, (which may very probably be the caſe), than forfeit our integrity, or ſhock the faith of our reader.

In this the ancients had a great advantage over the moderns. Their mythology, which was at that time more firmly believed by the vulgar than any religion is at preſent, gave them always an opportunity of delivering a favourite hero. Their deities were always ready at the writer's elbow to execute any of his purpoſes, and the more extraordinary the invention was, the greater was the ſurprize and delight of the credulous reader. Thoſe writers could with greater eaſe have conveyed a friend from one country to another, nay from one world to another, and have brought him back again, than a poor circumſcribed modern can deliver him from a goal.

The Arabians and Perſians had an equal advantage, in writing their tales, from the genii and fairies, which they believe in as an article of their faith, upon the authority of the Koran itſelf. But we have none of theſe helps.

To

helps. To natural means alone are we confined; let us try therefore what by theſe means may be done for poor Jones; though, to confeſs the truth, ſomething whiſpers me in the ear, that he doth not yet know the worſt of his fortune, and that a more ſhocking piece of news, than any he hath yet heard, remains for him in the unopened leaves of fate.

CHAP. II.

The generous and grateful behaviour of Mrs Miller.

MR ALLWORTHY and Mrs Miller were juſt ſat down to breakfaſt, when Blifil, who had gone out very early that morning, returned to make one of the company.

He had not been long ſeated before he began as follows: "Good Lord! my dear uncle, what do you think "hath happened? I vow I am afraid of telling it you, "for fear of ſhocking you with the remembrance of ever "having ſhewn any kindneſs to ſuch a villain." "What "is the matter, child," ſaid the uncle, "I fear I have "ſhewn kindneſs in my life to the unworthy more than "once. But charity doth not adopt the vices of its ob-"ject." "O, Sir," returned Blifil, "it is not with-"out the ſecret direction of Providence that you men-"tion the word *adoption*. Your adopted ſon, Sir, that "Jones, that wretch, whom you nouriſhed in your bo-"ſom, hath proved one of the greateſt villains upon "earth." "By all that's ſacred, 'tis falſe," cries Mrs Miller. "Mr Jones is no villain. He is one of the "worthieſt creatures breathing; and if any other perſon "had called him villain I would have thrown all this boil-"ing water in his face." Mr Allworthy looked very much amazed at this behaviour. But ſhe did not give him leave to ſpeak, before, turning to him, ſhe cried, "I hope you will not be angry with me; I ſhould not "offend you, Sir, for the world; but indeed I could "not bear to hear him called ſo." "I muſt own, "Madam," ſaid Mr Allworthy gravely, "I am a little "ſurpriſed to hear you ſo warmly defend a fellow you

" do not know." " O I do know him, Mr Allworthy," ſaid ſhe, " indeed I do: I ſhould be the moſt ungrate-" ful of all wretches if I denied it. O he hath preſerved " me and my little family; we have all reaſon to bleſs " him while we live;—and I pray Heaven to bleſs him, " and turn the hearts of his malicious enemies. I know, " I find, I ſee he hath ſuch." " You ſurpriſe me, " Madam, ſtill more," ſaid Allworthy; " ſure you muſt " mean ſome other. It is impoſſible you ſhould have " any ſuch obligations to the man my nephew mentions." " Too ſurely," anſwered ſhe, " I have obligations to " him of the greateſt and tendereſt kind. He hath been " the preſerver of me and mine.——Believe me, Sir, " he hath been abuſed, groſsly abuſed to you; I know " he hath; or you, whom I know to be all goodneſs " and honour, would not, after the many kind and ten-" der things I have heard you ſay of this poor helpleſs " child, have ſo diſdainfully called him Fellow. Indeed, " my beſt of friends, he deſerves a kinder appellation " from you, had you heard the good, the kind, the " grateful things, which I have heard him utter of you. " He never mentions your name but with a kind of " adoration. In this very room, I have ſeen him on " his knees imploring all the bleſſings of heaven upon " your head. I do not love that child there better than " he loves you."

" I ſee, Sir, now," ſaid Blifil, with one of thoſe grin-ing ſneers with which the Devil marks his beſt beloved, " Mrs Miller really doth know him. I ſuppoſe you will " find ſhe is not the only one of your acquaintance to " whom he hath expoſed you. As for my character, " I perceive by ſome hints ſhe hath thrown out, he hath " been very free with it; but I forgive him." " And " the Lord forgive you, Sir," ſays Mrs Miller, " we " have all ſins enough to ſtand in need of his forgive-" neſs."

" Upon my word, Mrs Miller," ſaid Allworthy, " I " do not take this behaviour of yours to my nephew " kindly; and I do aſſure you, as any reflections which " you caſt upon him muſt come only from that wicked-" eſt of men, they would only ſerve, if that were poſſi-

" ble,

"ble, to heighten my reſentment againſt him: for I "muſt tell you, Mrs Miller, the young man who now "ſtands before you hath ever been the warmeſt advo- "cate for the ungrateful wretch whoſe cauſe you eſ- "pouſe. This, I think, when you hear it from my own "mouth, will make you wonder at ſo much baſeneſs and "ingratitude."

"You are deceived, Sir," anſwered Mrs Miller, "if "they were the laſt words which were to iſſue from my "lips, I would ſay you were deceived; and I once more "repeat it, the Lord forgive thoſe who have deceived "you. I do not pretend to ſay the young man is "without faults; but they are the faults of wildneſs and "of youth; faults which he may, nay which I am cer- "tain he will relinquiſh, and if he ſhould not they are "vaſtly overbalanced by one of the moſt humane, ten- "der, honeſt hearts that ever man was bleſſed with."

"Indeed, Mrs Miller," ſaid Allworthy, "had this "been related of you, I ſhould not have believed it."— "Indeed, Sir," anſwered ſhe, "you will believe every "thing I have ſaid, I am ſure you will; and when you "have heard the ſtory which I ſhall tell you, (for I will "tell you all) you will be ſo far from being offended, "that you will own (I know your juſtice ſo well) that I "muſt have been the moſt deſpicable and moſt ungrate- "ful of wretches, if I had acted any other part than I "have."

"Well, Madam," ſaid Allworthy, "I ſhall be very glad "to hear any good excuſe for a behaviour which, I muſt "confeſs, I think wants an excuſe. And now, Madam, "will you be pleaſed to let my nephew proceed in his "ſtory without interruption. He would not have in- "troduced a matter of ſlight conſequence with ſuch a "preface. Perhaps even this ſtory will cure you of your "miſtake."

Mrs Miller gave tokens of ſubmiſſion, and then Mr Blifil began thus: "I am ſure, Sir, if you don't think "proper to reſent the ill uſage of Mrs Miller, I ſhall "eaſily forgive what affects me only: I think your "goodneſs hath not deſerved this indignity at her "hands." "Well, child," ſaid Allworthy, "but what

"is

" is this new inſtance? What hath he done of late?"
" What," cries Blifil, " notwithſtanding all Mrs Miller
" hath ſaid, I am very ſorry to relate, and what you
" ſhould never have heard from me, had it not been a
" matter impoſſible to conceal from the world. In
" ſhort, he hath killed a man; I will not ſay murder-
" ed,——for perhaps it may not be ſo conſtrued in law,
" and I hope the beſt for his ſake."

Allworthy looked ſhocked, and bleſſed himſelf; and then turning to Mrs Miller, he cried, " Well, Madam, " what ſay you now?"

" Why, I ſay, Sir," anſwered ſhe, " that I never was
" more concerned at any thing in my life; but, if the
" fact be true, I am convinced the man, whoever he is,
" was in the fault. Heaven knows there are many vil-
" lains in this town, who make it their buſineſs to pro-
" voke young gentlemen. Nothing but the greateſt pro-
" vocation could have tempted him; for of all the gentle-
" tlemen I ever had in my houſe, I never ſaw one ſo
" gentle, or ſo ſweet-tempered. He was beloved by
" every one in the houſe, and every one who came
" near it."

While ſhe was thus running on, a violent knocking at the door interrupted the converſation, and prevented her from proceding further, or from receiving any anſwer; for as ſhe concluded this was a viſiter to Mr Allworthy, ſhe haſtily retired, taking with her her little girl, whoſe eyes were all over blubbered at the melancholy news ſhe heard of Jones, who uſed to call her his little wife, and not only gave her many play-things, but ſpent whole hours in playing with her himſelf.

Some readers may perhaps be pleaſed with theſe minute circumſtances, in relating of which we follow the example of Plutarch, one of the beſt of our brother hiſtorians; and others to whom they may appear trivial, will, we hope, at leaſt pardon them, as we are never prolix on ſuch occaſions.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

The arrival of Mr Weſtern, *with ſome matters concerning the paternal authority.*

MRS Miller had not long left the room, when Mr Weſtern entered; but not before a ſmall wrangling bout had paſſed between him and his chairmen; for the fellows who had taken up their burden at the Hercules Pillars, had conceived no hopes of having any future good cuſtomer in the 'ſquire; and moreover they were farther encouraged by his generoſity, (for he had given them of his own accord ſixpence more than their fare;) they therefore very boldly demanded another ſhilling, which ſo provoked the 'ſquire, that he not only beſtowed many hearty curſes on them at the door, but retained his anger after he came into the room; ſwearing that all the Londoners were like the court, and thought of nothing but plundering country-gentlemen. "D—n "me," ſays he, "if I won't walk in the rain rather "than get into one of their hand-barrows again. They "have jolted me more in a mile, than Brown Beſs would "in a long fox-chace."

When his wrath on this occaſion was a little appeaſed, he reſumed the ſame paſſionate tone on another.—"There," ſays he, "there is fine buſineſs forwards "now. The hounds have changed at laſt, and when "we imagined we had a fox to deal with, od-rat-it, it "turns out to be a badger at laſt."

"Pray, my good neighbour," ſaid Allworthy, "drop "your metaphors, and ſpeak a little plainer." "Why "then," ſays the 'ſquire, "to tell you plainly, we have "been all this time afraid of a ſon of a whore of a ba"ſtard of ſome-body's, I don't know who's, not I.— "And now here is a confounded ſon of a whore of a "lord, who may be a baſtard too for what I know or "care, for he ſhall never have a daughter of mine by "my conſent. They have beggared the nation, but they "ſhall never beggar me. My land ſhall never be ſent "over to Hanover."

"You

"You ſurpriſe me much, my good friend," ſaid Allworthy, "Why, zounds! I am ſurpriſed myſelf," anſwered the 'ſquire, "I went to zee ſiſter Weſtern laſt "night, according to her own appointment, and there "I was had into a whole room full of women.——There "was my Lady couſin Bellaſton, and my Lady Betty, "and my Lady Catherine, and my Lady I don't know "who; d—n me if ever you catch me among ſuch a "kennel of hoop-petticoat b——s. D—n me, I had ra"ther be run by my own dogs, as one Acton was, that "the ſtory book ſays was turned into a hare; and his "own dogs killed un, and eat un. Od-rabbet-it, no "mortal was ever run in ſuch a manner; if I dogged "one way, one had me, if I offered to clap back, ano"ther ſnapped me. O! certainly one of the greateſt "matches in England, ſays one couſin, (here he attempt"ed to mimic them;) a very advantageous offer indeed, "cries another couſin; (for you muſt know they be all "my couſins, thof I never zeed half o'um before.) "Surely, ſays that fat a—ſed b——, my Lady Bellaſton, "couſin, you muſt be out of your wits to think of re"fuſing ſuch an offer."

"Now I begin to underſtand," ſays Allworthy, "ſome "perſon hath made propoſals to Miſs Weſtern, which "the ladies of the family approve, but is not to your "liking."

"My liking!" ſaid Weſtern, "how the devil ſhould "it? I tell you it is a lord, and thoſe are always volks "whom you know I always reſolved to have nothing to "do with. Did unt I refuſe a matter of vorty years "purchaſe now for a bit of land, which one o'um had a "mind to put into a park, only becauſe I would have "no dealings with lords, and doſt think I would marry "my daughter zu? Beſides, ben't I engaged to you, and "did I ever go off any bargain when I had promiſed?"

"As to that point, neighbour," ſaid Allworthy, "I "entirely releaſe you from any engagement. No con"tract can be binding between parties who have not a "full power to make it at the time, nor ever afterwards "acquire the power of fulfilling it."

"Slud!

"Slud! then," anſwered Weſtern, "I tell you I have "power, and I will fulfil it. Come along with me di- "rectly to Doctors Commons, I will get a licence; and "I will go to ſiſter and take away the wench by force, "and ſhe ſhall ha un, or I will lock her up and keep "her upon bread and water as long as ſhe lives."

"Mr Weſtern," ſaid Allworthy, "ſhall I beg you "will hear my full ſentiments on this matter?" "Hear "thee! ay, to be ſure I will," anſwered he. "Why "then, Sir," cries Allworthy, "I can truly ſay, with- "out a compliment either to you or the young lady, "that when this match was propoſed, I embraced it "very readily and heartily, from my regard to you both. "An alliance between two families ſo nearly neighbours, "and between whom there had always exiſted ſo mutual "an intercourſe and good harmony, I thought a moſt "deſirable event; and with regard to the young lady, "not only the concurrent opinion of all who knew her, "but my own obſervation aſſured me, that ſhe would "be an ineſtimable treaſure to a good huſband. I ſhall "ſay nothing of her perſonal qualifications, which cer- "tainly are admirable; her good-nature, her charitable "diſpoſition, her modeſty, are too well known to need "any panegyric: but ſhe hath one quality which exiſt- "ed in a high degree in that beſt of women, who is now "one of the firſt of angels, which as it is not of a gla- "ring kind, more commonly eſcapes obſervation; ſo lit- "tle indeed is it remarked, that I want a word to ex- "preſs it. I muſt uſe negatives on this occaſion. I ne- "ver heard any thing of pertneſs, or what is called re- "partee, out of her mouth; no pretence to wit, much "leſs to that kind of wiſdom, which is the reſult only "of great learning and experience; the affectation of "which in a young woman, is as abſurd as any of the "affectations of an ape. No dictatorial ſentiments, no "judicial opinions, no profound criticiſms. Whenever "I have ſeen her in the company of men, ſhe hath been "all attention, with the modeſty of a learner, not the "forwardneſs of a teacher. You'll pardon me for it, "but I once, to try her only, deſired her opinion on a "point which was controverted between Mr Thwackum

" and Mr Square." To which ſhe anſwered with much ſweetneſs, " You will pardon me, good Mr Allworthy, " I am ſure you cannot in earneſt think me capable of " deciding any point in which two ſuch gentlemen diſa- " gree." " Thwackum and Square, who both alike " thought themſelves ſure of a favourable deciſion, ſe- " conded my requeſt. She anſwered with the ſame good " humour, " I muſt abſolutely be excuſed; for I will af- " front neither ſo much, as to give my judgment on his " ſide." Indeed, ſhe always ſhewed the higheſt defe- " rence to the underſtandings of men; a quality abſo- " lutely eſſential to the making a good wife. I ſhall on- " ly add, that as ſhe is moſt apparently void of all affec- " tation, this deference muſt be certainly real."

Here Blifil ſighed bitterly: upon which Weſtern, whoſe eyes were full of tears at the praiſe of Sophia, blubbered out, " Don't be chicken-hearted, for ſhat ha her, d—n " me, ſhat ha her, if ſhe was twenty times as good."

" Remember your promiſe, Sir," cried Allworthy, " I was not to be interrupted." " Well, ſhat unt," anſwered the 'ſquire, " I won't ſpeak another word."

" Now, my good friend," continued Allworthy, I " have dwelt ſo long on the merit of this young lady, " partly as I really am in love with her character, and " partly that fortune (for the match in that light is " really advantageous on my nephew's ſide) might not " be imagined to be my principal view in having ſo ea- " gerly embraced the propoſal. Indeed I heartily wiſh- " ed to receive ſo great a jewel into my family; but " though I may wiſh for many good things, I would not " therefore ſteal them, or be guilty of any violence or " injuſtice to poſſeſs myſelf of them. Now, to force a " woman into a marriage contrary to her conſent or ap- " probation, is an act of ſuch injuſtice and oppreſſion, " that I wiſh the laws of our country could reſtrain it; " but a good conſcience is never lawleſs in the worſt re- " gulated ſtate, and will provide thoſe laws for itſelf, " which the neglect of legiſlators hath forgotten to ſup- " ply. This is ſurely a caſe of that kind; for is it not " cruel, nay, impious to force a woman into that ſtate " againſt her will; for her behaviour in which ſhe is to

" be

" be accountable to the higheſt and moſt dreadful court
" of judicature, and to anſwer at the peril of her ſoul?
" To diſcharge the matrimonial duties in an adequate
" manner is no eaſy taſk, and ſhall we lay this burden
" upon a woman while we at the ſame time deprive her
" of all that aſſiſtance which may enable her to undergo
" it? Shall we tear her very heart from her, while we
" enjoin her duties to which a whole heart is ſcarce equal.
" I muſt ſpeak very plainly here: I think parents who
" act in this manner are acceſſaries to all the guilt which
" their children afterwards incur, and of courſe muſt,
" before a juſt judge, expect to partake of their puniſh-
" ment; but if they could avoid this, good heaven! is
" there a ſoul who can bear the thought of having con-
" tributed to the damnation of his child."

" For theſe reaſons, my beſt neighbour, as I ſee the
" inclinations of this young lady are moſt unhappily
" averſe to my nephew, I muſt decline any further
" thoughts of the honour you intended him, though I
" aſſure you I ſhall always retain the moſt grateful ſenſe
" of it."

" Well, Sir," ſaid Weſtern, (the froth burſting forth from his lips the moment they were uncorked) " you
" cannot ſay but I have heard you out, and now I ex-
" pect you'll hear me; and if I don't anſwer every word
" on't, why then I'll conſent to gee the matter up. Firſt
" then I deſire you to anſwer me one queſtion, Did not
" I beget her? did not I beget her? anſwer me that.
" They ſay indeed it is a wiſe father that knows his own
" child; but I am ſure I have the beſt title to her, for
" I bred her up. But I believe you will allow me to be
" her father, and if I be, am I not to govern my own
" child? I aſk you that; am I not to govern my own
" child? and if I am to govern her in other matters,
" ſurely, I am to govern her in this which concerns her
" moſt. And what am I deſiring all this while? Am I
" deſiring her to do any thing for me? to give me any
" thing?—So much on t'other ſide, that I am only de-
" ſiring her to take away half my eſtate now, and t'other
" half when I die. Well, and what is it all vor? Why
" is unt it to make her happy? It's enough to make one

" mad to hear volks talk; if I was going to marry my-
" ſelf, then ſhe would ha reaſon to cry and to blubber;
" but, on the contrary, han't I offered to bind down my
" land in ſuch a manner, that I could not marry if I would,
" ſeeing as narro' woman upon earth would ha me.
" What the devil in hell can I do more? I contribute
" to her damnation!—Zounds! I'd ſee all the world
" d——n'd bevore her little vinger ſhould be hurt. In-
" deed, Mr Allworthy, you muſt excuſe me, but I am
" ſurpriſed to hear you talk in ſuch a manner, and I
" muſt ſay, take it how you will, that I thought you
" had more ſenſe."

Allworthy reſented this reflection only with a ſmile; nor could he, if he would have endeavoured it, have conveyed into that ſmile any mixture of malice or contempt. His ſmiles at folly were indeed ſuch as we may ſuppoſe the angels beſtow on the abſurdities of mankind.

Blifil now deſired to be permitted to ſpeak a few words. " As to uſing any violence on the young lady,
" I am ſure I ſhall never conſent to it. My conſcience
" will not permit me to uſe violence on any one, much
" leſs on a lady for whom, however cruel ſhe is to me,
" I ſhall always preſerve the pureſt and ſincereſt affection;
" but yet I have read, that women are ſeldom proof a-
" gainſt perſeverance. Why may I not hope then by
" ſuch perſeverance at laſt to gain thoſe inclinations, in
" which for the future I ſhall, perhaps, have no rival;
" for as for this lord, Mr Weſtern is ſo kind as to pre-
" fer me to him; and ſure, Sir, you will not deny but
" that a parent hath at leaſt a negative voice in theſe
" matters; nay, I have heard this very young lady her-
" ſelf ſay ſo more than once, and declare, that ſhe
" thought children inexcuſable who married in direct op-
" poſition to the will of their parents. Beſides, though
" the other ladies of the family ſeem to favour the pre-
" tenſions of my lord, I do not find the lady herſelf is
" inclined to give him any countenance; alas! I am too
" well aſſured ſhe is not; I am too ſenſible that wicked-
" eſt of men remains uppermoſt in her heart."

" Ay, ay, ſo he does," cries Weſtern.

" But

"But ſurely," ſays Bliſil, "when ſhe hears of this "murder which he hath committed, if the law ſhould "ſpare his life'——

"What's that! cries Weſtern; "murder! hath he "committed a murder, and is there any hopes of ſeeing "him hanged?—Tol de rol, tol lol de rol." Here he fell a ſinging and capering about the room.

"Child," ſays Allworthy, "this unhappy paſſion of "yours diſtreſſes me beyond meaſure. I heartily pity "you, and would do every thing to promote your ſuc-"ceſs."

"I deſire no more," cries Bliſil; "I am convinced "my dear uncle hath a better opinion of me than to "think that I myſelf would accept of more."

"Lookee," ſays Allworthy, "you have my leave to "write, to viſit if ſhe will permit it;—but I inſiſt on "no thoughts of violence: I will have no confinement, "nothing of that kind attempted."

"Well, well," cries the 'ſquire, "nothing of that "kind ſhall be attempted; we will try a little longer "what fair means will effect; and if this fellow be but "hanged out of the way—Tol lol de rol. I never heard "better news in my life; I warrant every thing goes to "my mind.——Do, prithee, dear Allworthy, come and "dine with me at the Hercules-Pillars: I have beſpoke "a ſhoulder of mutton roaſted, and a ſpare-rib of pork, "and a fowl and egg ſauce. There will be nobody but "ourſelves, unleſs we have a mind to have the landlord; "for I have ſent Parſon Supple down to Baſingſtoke af-"ter my tobacco box, which I left at an inn there, and "I would not loſe it for the world; for it is an old ac-"quaintance of above twenty years ſtanding. I can tell "you landlord is a vaſt comical bitch; you will like un "hugely."

Mr Allworthy at laſt agreed to this invitation, and ſoon after the 'ſquire went off ſinging and capering at the hopes of ſeeing the ſpeedy tragical end of poor Jones.

When he was gone, Mr Allworthy reſumed the afore-ſaid ſubject with much gravity. He told his nephew, "He wiſhed with all his heart he would endeavour to

"conquer

" conquer a paſſion, in which I cannot," ſays he, " flat-
" ter you with any hopes of ſucceeding. It is certainly
" a vulgar error, that averſion in a woman may be con-
" quered by perſeverance. Indifference may perhaps
" ſometimes yield to it; but the uſual triumphs, gained
" by the perſeverance of a lover, are over caprice, impru-
" dence, affectation, and often an exorbitant degree of
" levity, which excites women, not over-warm in their
" conſtitutions, to indulge their vanity, by prolonging
" the time of courtſhip, even when they are well enough
" pleaſed with the object, and reſolve (if ever they re-
" ſolve at all) to make him a very pitiful amends in the
" end. But a fixed diſlike, as I am afraid this is, will
" rather gather ſtrength, than be conquered by time.
" Beſides, my dear, I have another apprehenſion which
" you muſt excuſe. I am afraid this paſſion, which you
" have for this fine young creature, hath her beautiful per-
" ſon too much for its object, and is unworthy of the name
" of that love, which is the only foundation of matri-
" monial felicity. To admire, to like, and to long for
" the poſſeſſion of a beautiful woman, without any regard
" to her ſentiments towards us, is, I am afraid, too natu-
" ral; but love, I believe, is the child of love only; at
" leaſt I am pretty confident, that to love the creature,
" who, we are aſſured hates us, is not in human nature.
" Examine your heart, therefore, thoroughly, my good
" boy; and if upon examination you have but the leaſt
" ſuſpicion of this kind, I am ſure your own virtue and
" religion will impel you to drive ſo vicious a paſſion
" from your heart, and your good ſenſe will ſoon enable
" you to do it without pain."

The reader may pretty well gueſs Bliſil's anſwer; but, if he ſhould be at a loſs, we are not at preſent at leiſure to ſatisfy him, as our hiſtory now haſtens on to matters of higher importance, and we can no longer bear to be abſent from Sophia.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

An extraordinary Scene between Sophia *and her Aunt.*

THE lowing heifer and the bleating ewe, in herds and flocks, may ramble ſafe and unregarded thro' the paſtures. Theſe are indeed hereafter doomed to be the prey of man; yet many years are they ſuffered to enjoy their liberty undiſturbed. But if a plump doe be diſcovered to have eſcaped from the foreſt, and to repoſe herſelf in ſome field or grove, the whole pariſh is preſently alarmed, every man is ready to ſet his dogs after her; and if ſhe is preſerved from the reſt by the good 'ſquire, it is only that he may ſecure her for his own eating.

I have often conſidered a very fine young woman of fortune and faſhion, when firſt found ſtrayed from the pale of her nurſery, to be in pretty much the ſame ſituation with his doe. The town is immediately in an uproar; ſhe is hunted from park to play, from court to aſſembly, from aſſembly to her own chamber, and rarely eſcapes a ſingle ſeaſon from the jaws of ſome devourer or other: for, if her friends protect her from ſome, it is only to deliver her over to one of their own chuſing, often more diſagreeable to her than any of the reſt; while whole herds or flocks of other women, ſecurely and ſcarce regarded, traverſe the park, the play, the opera, and the aſſembly; and though, for the moſt part at leaſt, they are at laſt devoured, yet for a long time do they wanton in liberty without diſturbance or controul.

Of all theſe paragons, none ever taſted more of this perſecution than poor Sophia. Her ill ſtars were not contented with all that ſhe had ſuffered on account of Blifil; they now raiſed her another purſuer, who ſeemed likely to torment her no leſs than the other had done: for, though her aunt was leſs violent, ſhe was no leſs aſſiduous in teazing her, than her father had been before.

The ſervants were no ſooner departed after dinner, than Mrs Weſtern, who had opened the matter to Sophia, informed

formed her, "That ſhe expected his lordſhip that very "afternoon, and intended to take the firſt opportuni- "ty of leaving her alone with him." "If you do, "Madam," anſwered Sophia with ſome ſpirit, "I ſhall "take the firſt opportunity of leaving him by himſelf." "How! Madam!" cries the aunt, "is this the return "you make me for my kindneſs in relieving you from your "confinement at your father's?" "You know, Ma- "dam," ſaid Sophia, "the cauſe of that confinement "was a refuſal to comply with my father, in accepting "a man I deteſted; and will my dear aunt, who hath "relieved me from that diſtreſs, involve me in a- "nother equally bad?" "And do you think then, "Madam," anſwered Mrs Weſtern, "that there is no "difference between my Lord Fellamar and Mr Blifil?" "Very little, in my opinion," cries Sophia; "and, if I "muſt be condemned to one, I would certainly have "the merit of ſacrificing myſelf to my father's pleaſure." "Then my pleaſure I find," ſaith the aunt, "hath very "little weight with you; but that conſideration ſhall "not move me. I act from nobler motives. The "view of aggrandizing my family, of ennobling your- "ſelf, is what I proceed upon. Have you no ſenſe of "ambition? Are there no charms in the thoughts of "having a coronet on your coach?" "None, upon "my honour," ſaid Sophia. "A pincuſhion upon my "coach would pleaſe me as well." "Never mention "honour," cries the aunt, "it becomes not the mouth "of ſuch a wretch. I am ſorry, niece, you force me "to uſe theſe words; but I cannot bear your grovelling "temper; you have none of the blood of the Weſterns "in you. But however mean and baſe your own ideas "are, you ſhall bring no imputation on mine. I will "never ſuffer the world to ſay of me, that I encouraged "you in refuſing one of the beſt matches in England; a "match which, beſides its advantage in fortune, would "do honour to almoſt any family, and hath indeed, in "title, the advantage of ours." "Surely," ſays Sophia, "I am born deficient, and have not the ſenſes with "which other people are bleſſed; there muſt be certain- "ly ſome ſenſe which can reliſh the delights of ſound

"and

" and ſhow, which I have not: for ſurely mankind would " not labour ſo much, nor ſacrifice ſo much for the ob- " taining, nor would they be ſo elate and proud with " poſſeſſing, what appeared to them, as it doth to me, " the moſt inſignificant of all trifles."

" No, no, Miſs;" cries the aunt; " you are born " with as many ſenſes as other people; but I aſſure you, " you are not born with a ſufficient underſtanding to " make a fool of me, or to expoſe my conduct to the " world. So I declare this to you upon my word, and " you know, I believe, how fixed my reſolutions are, " unleſs you agree to ſee his lordſhip this afternoon, I " will, with my own hands, deliver you to-morrow morn- " ing to my brother, and will never henceforth interfere " with you, or ſee your face again." Sophia ſtood a few moments ſilent after this ſpeech, which was uttered in a moſt angry and preremptory tone; and then burſting in- to tears, ſhe cry'd, " Do with me, Madam, whatever you " pleaſe; I am the moſt miſerable undone wretch upon " earth; if my dear aunt forſakes me, where ſhall I " look for a protector?"—" My dear niece," cries ſhe, " you will have a very good protector in his lordſhip; a " protector, whom nothing but a hankering after that " vile fellow Jones can make you decline." " Indeed, " Madam," ſaid Sophia, " you wrong me. How can " you imagine, after what you have ſhewn me, if I had " ever any ſuch thoughts, that I ſhould not baniſh them " for ever. If it will ſatisfy you, I will receive the ſa- " crament upon it, never to ſee his face again."—" But " child, dear child," ſaid the aunt, " be reaſonable: " can you invent a ſingle objection?"—" I have already, " I think, told you a ſufficient objection," anſwered So- " phia—" What," cries the aunt; " I remember none." " Sure, Madam," I told you he had uſed me in the " rudeſt and vileſt manner." " Indeed, child," anſwered " ſhe, " I never heard you, or did not underſtand you: " —But what do you mean by this rude and vile man- " ner?" " Indeed, Madam," ſaid Sophia, " I am al- " moſt aſhamed to tell you. He caught me in his arms, " pulled me down upon the ſettee, and thruſt his hand " into my boſom and kiſſed it with ſuch violence, that I

" have the mark upon my left breaſt at this moment."
" Indeed!" ſaid Mrs Weſtern. " Yes, indeed, Ma-
" dam," anſwered Sophia; " my father luckily came in
" at that inſtant, or heaven knows what rudeneſs he in-
" tended to have proceeded to." " I am aſtoniſhed and
" confounded," cries the aunt. " No woman of the
" name of Weſtern hath been treated ſo, ſince we were
" a family. I would have torn the eyes of a prince out,
" if he had attempted ſuch freedoms with me. It is
" impoſſible: ſure, Sophia, you muſt invent this to raiſe
" my indignation againſt him." " I hope, Madam,"
ſaid Sophia, " you have too good opinion of me, to ima-
" gine me capable of telling an untruth. Upon my ſoul
" its true." " I ſhould have ſtabbed him to the heart
" had I been preſent," returned the aunt. " Yet ſure-
" ly he could have no diſhonourable deſign: it is impoſ-
" ſible; he durſt not: beſides, his propoſals ſhow he had
" not; for they are not only honourable but generous.
" I don't know; the age allows too great freedom. A
" diſtant ſalute is all I would have allowed before the ce-
" remony. I have had lovers formerly, not ſo long ago
" neither; ſeveral lovers, though I never would conſent
" to marriage, and I never encouraged the leaſt freedom.
" It is a fooliſh cuſtom, and what I never would agree
" to.—" No man kiſſed more of me than my cheek.
" It is as much as one can bring one's ſelf to give lips
" up to a huſband: and, indeed, could I ever have been
" perſuaded to marry, I believe I ſhould not have ſoon
" been brought to endure ſo much." " You will par-
" don me, dear Madam," ſaid Sophia, " if I make one
" obſervation: you own you have had many lovers, and
" the world knows it, even if you ſhould deny it. You
" refuſed them all, and I am convinced one coronet at
" leaſt among them." " You ſay true, dear Sophia,"
anſwered ſhe; I had once the offer of a title; but it
" was not ſo good an offer; that is, not ſo very, very
" good an offer."—" Yes, Madam," ſaid Sophia; " but
" you have had very great propoſals from men of vaſt
" fortunes. It was not the firſt, nor the ſecond, nor the
" third advantageous match that offered itſelf." " I
" own it was not," ſaid ſhe. " Well, Madam," continu-

ed

ed Sophia, "and why may I not expect to have a ſe-
"cond, perhaps better than this? You are now but a
"young woman, and I am convinced would not promiſe to
"yield to the firſt lover of fortune, nay, or of title too.
"I am a very young woman, and ſure I need not deſ-
"pair." "Well, my dear, dear Sophy," cries the aunt,
"what would you have me ſay?" "Why, I only beg
"that I may not be left alone, at leaſt this evening:
"grant me that, and I will ſubmit, if you think, after
"what has paſt, I ought to ſee him in your company."
"Well, I grant it," cries the aunt. "Sophy, you know
"I love you, and can deny you nothing. You know
"the eaſineſs of my nature; I have not always been
"ſo eaſy. I have been formerly thought cruel; by the
"men I mean. I was called the cruel Partheniſſa. I
"have broke many a window that has had verſes to the
"cruel Partheniſſa in it.—Sophy, I was never ſo hand-
"ſome as you, and yet I had ſomething of you formerly.
"I am a little altered. Kingdoms and ſtates, as Tully
"Cicero ſays in his epiſtles, undergo alterations, and ſo
"muſt the human form." Thus ſhe ran on for near half an hour upon herſelf, and her conqueſts and her cruelty, till the arrival of my Lord, who, after a moſt tedious viſit, during which Mrs Weſtern never once offered to leave the room, retired, not much more ſatisfied with the aunt than with the niece. For Sophia had brought her aunt into ſo excellent a temper, that ſhe conſented to almoſt every thing her niece ſaid; and agreed, that a little diſtant behaviour might not be improper to ſo forward a lover.

Thus Sophia, by a little well-directed flattery, for which ſurely none will blame her, obtained a little eaſe for herſelf, and, at leaſt, put off the evil day.—— And now we have ſeen our heroine in a better ſituation than ſhe hath been for a long time before, we will look a little after Mr Jones, whom we left in the moſt deplorable ſituation that can be well imagined.

CHAP. V.

Mrs Miller *and Mr* Nightingale *viſit* Jones *in the Priſon.*

WHEN Mr Allworthy and his nephew went to meet Mr Weſtern, Mrs Miller ſet forward to her ſon-in-law's lodgings, in order to acquaint him with the accident which had befallen his friend Jones, but he had known it long before from Partridge, (for Jones, when he left Mrs Miller, had been furniſhed with a room in the ſame houſe with Mr Nightingale.) The good woman found her daughter under great affliction on account of Jones, whom having comforted as well as ſhe could, ſhe ſet forwards to the Gate-houſe, where he was, and where Mr Nightingale was arrived before her.

The firmneſs and conſtancy of a true friend is a circumſtance ſo extremely delightful to perſons in any kind of diſtreſs, that the diſtreſs itſelf, if it be only temporary, and admits of relief, is more than compenſated by bringing this comfort with it. Nor are inſtances of this kind ſo rare, as ſome ſuperficial and inaccurate obſervers have reported. To ſay the truth, want of compaſſion is not to be numbered among our general faults. The black ingredient which fouls our diſpoſitions is envy. Hence our eye is ſeldom, I am afraid, turned upwards to thoſe who are manifeſtly greater, better, wiſer, or happier than ourſelves without ſome degree of malignity; while we commonly look downwards on the mean and miſerable, with ſufficient benevolence and pity. In fact, I have remarked, that moſt of the defects which have diſcovered themſelves in the friendſhips within my obſervation, have ariſen from envy only; a helliſh vice; and yet one from which I have known very few abſolutely exempt. But enough of a ſubject which, if purſued, would lead me too far.

Whether it was that fortune was apprehenſive leſt Jones ſhould ſink under the weight of his adverſity, and that ſhe might thus loſe any future opportunity of tormenting

menting him; or whether ſhe really abated ſomewhat of her ſeverity towards him, ſhe ſeemed a little to relax her perſecution, by ſending him the company of two ſuch faithful friends, and what is perhaps more rare, a faithful ſervant. For Partridge, tho' he had many imperfections, wanted not fidelity; and though fear would not ſuffer him to be hanged for his maſter, yet the world, I believe, could not have bribed him to deſert his cauſe.

While Jones was expreſſing great ſatisfaction in the preſence of his friends, Partridge brought an account that Mr Fitzpatrick was ſtill alive, though the ſurgeon declared, that he had very little hopes. Upon which Jones fetching a deep ſigh, Nightingale ſaid to him, "My "dear Tom, why ſhould you afflict yourſelf ſo upon an "accident, which, whatever be the conſequence, can be "attended with no danger to you, and in which your "conſcience cannot accuſe you of having been in the "leaſt to blame. If the fellow ſhould die, what have "you done more than taken away the life of a ruffian "in your own defence? So will the coroner's inqueſt "certainly find it; and then you will be eaſily admitted "to bail: and though you muſt undergo a kind of a "trial, yet it is a trial which many men would ſtand for "you for a ſhilling." "Come, come, Mr Jones," ſaid Mrs Miller, "cheer yourſelf up. I knew you would "not be the aggreſſor, and ſo I told Mr Allworthy, and "ſo he ſhall acknowledge too before I have done with "him."

Jones gravely anſwered, "That whatever might be "his fate, he ſhould always lament the having ſhed the "blood of one of his fellow-creatures, as one of the high-"eſt misfortunes which could have befallen him. But "I have another misfortune of the tendereſt kind—O! "Mrs Miller, I have loſt what I held moſt dear upon "earth." "That muſt be a miſtreſs," ſaid Mrs Miller, "but come, come; I know more than you imagine;" (for indeed Partridge had blabbed all) "and I have "heard more than you know. Matters go better, I "promiſe you, than you think; and I would not give "Blifil ſix-pence for all the chance which he hath of the "lady."

"Indeed

"Indeed, my dear friend, indeed," anſwered Jones, "you are an entire ſtranger to the cauſe of my grief. "If you was acquainted with the ſtory, you would allow my caſe admitted of no comfort. I apprehend "no danger from Blifil. I have undone myſelf."—— "Don't deſpair," replied Mrs Miller; "you know not "what a woman can do: and if any thing be in my "power, I promiſe you I will do it to ſerve you. It is "my duty. My ſon, my dear Mr Nightingale, who is ſo "kind to tell me he hath obligations to you on the ſame "account, knows it is my duty. Shall I go to the "lady myſelf? I will ſay any think to her you would "have me ſay."

"Thou beſt of women," cries Jones, taking her by the hand, "talk not of obligation to me:——but, as "you have been ſo kind to mention it, there is a favour "which, perhaps, may be in your power. I ſee you "are acquainted with the lady (how you came by your "information I know not) who ſits indeed very near my "heart. If you could contrive to deliver this, (giving "her a paper from his pocket), I ſhall ever acknowledge "your goodneſs."

"Give it me," ſaid Mrs Miller. "If I ſee it not in "her own poſſeſſion before I ſleep, may my next ſleep "be my laſt. Comfort yourſelf, my good young man; "be wiſe enough to take warning from paſt follies, and "I warrant all ſhall be well, and I ſhall yet ſee you happy with the moſt charming young lady in the world; "for ſo I hear from every one ſhe is."

"Believe me, Madam," ſaid he, "I do not ſpeak the "common cant of one in my unhappy ſituation. Before "this dreadful accident happened, I had reſolved to "quit a life of which I was become ſenſible of the wickedneſs as well as folly. I do aſſure you, notwithſtanding the diſturbances I have unfortunately occaſioned "in your houſe, for which I heartily aſk your pardon, "I am not an abandoned profligate. Though I have "hurried into vices, I do not approve of a vicious character; nor will I ever, from this moment, deſerve it."

Mrs

Mrs Miller expreſſed great ſatisfaction in theſe declarations, in the ſincerity of which ſhe averred ſhe had an entire faith: and now the remainder of the converſation paſt in the joint attempts of that good woman and Mr Nightingale, to cheer the dejected ſpirits of Mr Jones, in which they ſo far ſucceeded, as to leave him much better comforted and ſatisfied than they found him; to which happy alteration nothing ſo much contributed as the kind undertaking of Mrs Miller, to deliver his letter to Sophia, which he deſpaired of finding any means to accompliſh; for when Black George produced the laſt from Sophia, he informed Partridge, that ſhe had ſtrictly charged him, on pain of having it communicated to her father, not to bring her any anſwer. He was moreover not a little pleaſed, to find he had ſo warm an advocate to Mr Allworthy himſelf in this good woman, who was in reality, one of the worthieſt creatures in the world.

After about an hour's viſit from the lady, (for Nightingale had been with him much longer) they both took their leave, promiſing to inquire into the ſtate of Mr Fitzpatrick's wound, and likewiſe to find out ſome of the perſons who were preſent at the rencounter.

The former of theſe went directly in queſt of Sophia, whither we likewiſe ſhall now attend her.

CHAP. VI.

In which Mrs Miller *pays a Viſit to* Sophia.

ACCESS to the young lady was by no means difficult; for as ſhe lived now on a perfect friendly footing with her aunt, ſhe was at full liberty to receive what viſitant, ſhe pleaſed.

Sophia was dreſſing, when ſhe was acquainted that there was a gentlewoman below to wait on her. As ſhe was neither afraid nor aſhamed, to ſee any one of her own ſex, Mrs Miller was immediately admitted.

Curt'ſies and the uſual ceremonials between women who are ſtrangers to each other being paſt, Sophia ſaid, "I have not the pleaſure to know you, Madam." "No, "Madam," anſwered Mrs Miller, "and I muſt beg par-

"don

" don for intruding upon you. But when you know " what has induced me to give you this trouble, I hope ——" Pray, what is your buſineſs, Madam?" ſaid Sophia, with a little emotion. " Madam, we are not " alone," replied Mrs Miller, in a low voice. " Go out " Betty," ſaid Sophia.

When Betty was departed, Mrs Miller ſaid, " I was " deſired, Madam, by a very unhappy young gentleman, " to deliver you this letter." Sophia changed colour when ſhe ſaw the direction, well knowing the hand, and after ſome heſitation, ſaid,——" I could not conceive, " Madam, from your appearance, that your buſineſs had " been of ſuch a nature.—Whomever you brought this " letter from, I ſhall not open it. I ſhould be ſorry to " entertain an unjuſt ſuſpicion of any one; but you are " an utter ſtranger to me."

" If you will have patience, Madam," anſwered Mrs Miller, " I will acquaint you who I am, and how I came " by that letter." " I have no curioſity, Madam to " know any thing," cries Sophia; " but I muſt inſiſt on " your delivering that letter back to the perſon who " gave it you."

Mrs Miller then fell upon her knees, and in the moſt paſſionate terms, implored her compaſſion; to which Sophia anſwered: " Sure, Madam, it is ſurpriſing you " ſhould be ſo very ſtrongly intereſted in the behalf of " this perſon. I would not think, Madam,"——" No, " Madam," ſays Mrs Miller, " you ſhall not think any " thing but the truth. I will tell you all, and you will " not wonder that I am intereſted. He is the beſt-natu- " red creature that ever was born."——She then began and related the ſtory of Mr Anderſon.—After this ſhe cried, " This, Madam, this is his goodneſs; but I have " much more tender obligations to him. He hath pre- " ſerved my child."——Here, after ſhedding ſome tears, ſhe related every thing concerning that fact, ſup- preſſing only thoſe circumſtances which would have moſt reflected on her daughter, and concluded with ſaying, " Now, Madam, you ſhall judge whether I can ever do " enough for ſo kind, ſo good, ſo generous a young man:

" and

"and ſure he is the beſt and worthieſt of all human "beings."

The alterations in the countenance of Sophia had hitherto been chiefly to her diſadvantage, and had inclined her complexion to too great paleneſs; but ſhe now waxed redder, if poſſible, than vermilion, and cried, "I "know not what to ſay; certainly what ariſes from grati-"tude cannot be blamed.——But what ſervice can my "reading this letter do your friend, ſince I am reſolved "never"——Mrs Miller fell again to her intreaties, and begged to be forgiven, but ſhe could not, ſhe ſaid, carry it back. "Well, Madam," ſays Sophia, "I cannot help "it, if you will force it upon me.——Certainly you may "leave it whether I will or no." What Sophia meant, or whether ſhe meant any thing, I will not preſume to determine: but Mrs Miller actually underſtood this as a hint, and, preſently laying the letter down on the table, took her leave, having firſt begged permiſſion to wait again on Sophia; which requeſt had neither aſſent nor denial.

The letter lay upon the table no longer than till Mrs Miller was out of ſight; for then Sophia opened and read it.

This letter did very little ſervice to his cauſe; for it conſiſted of little more than confeſſions of his own unworthineſs, and bitter lamentations of deſpair, together with the moſt ſolemn proteſtations of his unalterable fidelity to Sophia, of which, he ſaid, he hoped to convince her, if he had ever more the honour of being admitted to her preſence, and that he could account for the letter to Lady Bellaſton in ſuch a manner, that, though it would not intitle him to her forgiveneſs, he hoped at leaſt to obtain it from her mercy; and concluded with moving, that nothing was ever leſs in his thoughts than to marry Lady Bellaſton.

Though Sophia read the letter twice over with great attention, his meaning ſtill remained a riddle to her; nor could her invention ſuggeſt to her any means to excuſe Jones. She certainly remained very angry with him, though indeed Lady Bellaſton took up ſo much of her re-

ſentment, that her gentle mind had but little left to beſtow on any other perſon.

That lady was moſt unluckily to dine this very day with her aunt Weſtern, and, in the afternoon, they were all three by appointment to go together to the opera, and thence to Lady Thomas Hatchet's drum. Sophia would have gladly been excuſed from all, but ſhe would not diſoblige her aunt; and, as to the arts of counterfeiting illneſs, ſhe was ſo entirely a ſtranger to them, that it never once entered into her head. When ſhe was dreſt, therefore, down ſhe went, reſolved to encounter all the horrors of the day; and a moſt diſagreeable one it proved, for Lady Bellaſton took every opportunity very civilly and ſlily to inſult her; to all which her dejection of ſpirits diſabled her from making any return; and indeed, to confeſs the truth, ſhe was at the very beſt but an indifferent miſtreſs of repartee.

Another misfortune which befel poor Sophia was the company of Lord Fellamar, whom ſhe met at the opera, and who attended her to the drum: and though both places were too public to admit of any particularities, and ſhe was farther relieved by the muſic at the one place, and by the cards at the other, ſhe could not however enjoy herſelf in his company; for there is ſomething of delicacy in women, which will not ſuffer them to be even eaſy in the preſence of a man whom they know to have pretenſions to them, which they are diſinclined to favour.

Having in this chapter twice mentioned a drum, a word which our poſterity, it is hoped, will not underſtand in the ſenſe it is here applied, we ſhall, notwithſtanding our preſent haſte, ſtop a moment to deſcribe the entertainment here meant, and the rather as we can in a moment deſcribe it.

A drum then is an aſſembly of well-dreſſed perſons of both ſexes, moſt of whom play at cards, and the reſt do nothing at all; while the miſtreſs of the houſe performs the part of the landlady at an inn, and, like the landlady of an inn, prides herſelf in the number of her gueſts, though ſhe doth not always, like her, get any thing by it.

No

No wonder then, as ſo much ſpirits muſt be required to ſupport any vivacity in theſe ſcenes of dullneſs, that we hear perſons of faſhion eternally complaining of the want of them; a complaint confined entirely to upper life. How inſupportable muſt we imagine this round of impertinence to have been to Sophia at this time; how difficult muſt ſhe have found it to force the appearance of gaiety into her looks, when her mind dictated nothing but the tendereſt ſorrow, and when every thought was charged with tormenting ideas.

Night, however, at laſt reſtored her to her pillow, where we will leave her to ſooth her melancholy at leaſt, though incapable we fear of reſt, and ſhall purſue our hiſtory, which, ſomething whiſpers us, is now arrived at the eve of ſome great event.

CHAP. VII.

A pathetic ſcene between Mr Allworthy *and Mrs* Miller.

MRS MILLER had a long diſcourſe with Mr Allworthy, at his return from dinner; in which ſhe acquainted him with Mr Jones's having unfortunately loſt all which he was pleaſed to beſtow on him at their ſeparation, and with the diſtreſſes to which that loſs had ſubjected him; of all which ſhe had received a full account from the faithful retailer Partridge. She then explained the obligations ſhe had to Jones; not that ſhe was entirely explicit with regard to her daughter; for though ſhe had the utmoſt confidence in Mr Allworthy, and though there could be no hopes of keeping an affair ſecret, which was unhappily known to more than half a dozen, yet ſhe could not prevail with herſelf to mention thoſe circumſtances which reflected moſt on the chaſtity of poor Nancy, but ſmothered that part of her evidence as cautiouſly as if ſhe had been before a judge, and the girl was now on her trial for the murder of a baſtard.

Allworthy ſaid, there were few characters ſo abſolutely vicious as not to have the leaſt mixture of good in them. "However," ſays he, "I cannot deny but that you had "ſome obligations to the fellow, bad as he is, and I ſhall

"therefore excuſe what hath paſt already, but muſt in-
"ſiſt you never mention his name to me more; for I
"promiſe you, it was upon the fulleſt and plaineſt evi-
"dence, that I reſolved to take the meaſures I have ta-
"ken." "Well, Sir," ſays ſhe, "I make not the leaſt
"doubt but time will ſhew all matters in their true and
"natural colours, and that you will be convinced this
"poor young man deſerves better of you than ſome other
"folks that ſhall be nameleſs."

"Madam," cries Allworthy, a little ruffled, "I will
"not hear any reflections on my nephew; and, if you
"ever ſay a word more of that kind, I will depart from
"your houſe that inſtant. He is the worthieſt and beſt
"of men; and I once more repeat it to you, he hath
"carried his friendſhip to this man to a blameable length,
"by too long concealing facts of the blackeſt die. The
"ingratitude of the wretch to this good young man is
"what I moſt reſent; for, Madam, I have the greateſt
"reaſon to imagine he had laid a plot to ſupplant my
"nephew in my favour, and to have diſinherited him."

"I am ſure, Sir," anſwered Mrs Miller, a little frightened, (for, though Mr Allworthy had the utmoſt ſweetneſs and benevolence in his ſmiles, he had great terror in his frowns,) "I ſhall never ſpeak againſt any
"gentleman you are pleaſed to think well of. I am
"ſure, Sir, ſuch behaviour would very little become me,
"eſpecially when the gentleman is your neareſt relation;
"but, Sir, you muſt not be angry with me, you muſt
"not indeed, for my good wiſhes to this poor wretch.
"Sure I may call him ſo now, though once you would
"have been angry with me if I had ſpoke of him with
"the leaſt diſreſpect. How often have I heard you call
"him your ſon? how often have you prattled to me of
"him, with all the fondneſs of a parent? Nay, Sir, I
"cannot forget the many tender expreſſions, the many
"good things you have told me of his beauty, and his
"parts, and his virtues; of his good nature and gene-
"roſity.——I am ſure, Sir, I cannot forget them; for
"I find them all true. I have experienced them in my
"own cauſe. They have preſerved my family. You muſt
"pardon my tears, Sir, indeed you muſt, when I conſider

"the

"the cruel reverſe of fortune which this poor youth, to "whom I am ſo much obliged, hath ſuffered; when I "conſider the loſs of your favour, which I know he va-"lued more than his life, I muſt, I muſt lament him. "If you had a dagger in your hand, ready to plunge into "my heart, I muſt lament the miſery of one whom you "have loved, and I ſhall ever love."

Allworthy was pretty much moved with this ſpeech, but it ſeemed not to be with anger; for, after a ſhort ſilence, taking Mrs Miller by the hand, he ſaid very affectionately to her, "Come, Madam, let us conſider a "little about your daughter. I cannot blame you for "rejoicing in a match which promiſes to be advantage-"ous to her; but you know this advantage, in a great "meaſure, depends on the father's reconciliation. I "know Mr Nightingale very well, and have formerly "had concerns with him; I will make him a viſit, and "endeavour to ſerve you in this matter. I believe he "is a worldly man; but as this is an only ſon, and the "thing is now irretrievable, perhaps he may in time be "brought to reaſon. I promiſe you I will do all I can "for you."

Many were the acknowledgments which the poor woman made to Allworthy, for this kind and generous offer, nor could ſhe refrain from taking this occaſion again to expreſs her gratitude towards Jones, "to whom," ſaid ſhe, "I owe the opportunity of giving you, Sir, this "preſent trouble." Allworthy gently ſtopped her; but he was too good a man to be really offended with the effects of ſo noble a principle as now actuated Mrs Miller; and indeed had not this new affair inflamed his former anger againſt Jones, it is poſſible he might have been a little ſoftened towards him, by the report of an action which malice itſelf could not have derived from an evil motive.

Mr Allworthy and Mrs Miller had been above an hour together, when their converſation was put an end to by the arrival of Blifil, and another perſon, which other perſon was no other than Mr Dowling, the attorney, who was now become a great favourite with Mr Blifil, and whom Mr Allworthy, at the deſire of his nephew, had

made

made his ſteward; and had likewiſe recommended him to Mr Weſtern, from whom the attorney received a promiſe of being promoted to the ſame office upon the firſt vacancy; and, in the mean time, was employed in tranſacting ſome affairs which the 'ſquire then had in London, in relation to a mortgage.

This was the principal affair which then brought Mr Dowling to town; therefore he took the ſame opportunity to charge himſelf with ſome money for Mr Allworthy, and to make a report to him of ſome other buſineſs; in all which, as it was of much too dull a nature to find any place in this hiſtory, we will leave the uncle, nephew, and their lawyer concerned, and reſort to other matters.

CHAP. VIII.

Containing various matters.

BEFORE we return to Mr Jones, we will take one more view of Sophia.

Though that young lady had brought her aunt into great good humour by thoſe ſoothing methods, which we have before related, ſhe had not brought her in the leaſt to abate of her zeal for the match with Lord Fellamar. This zeal was now inflamed by Lady Bellaſton, who had told her the preceding evening, that ſhe was well ſatisfied from the conduct of Sophia, and from her carriage to his lordſhip, that all delays would be dangerous, and that the only way to ſucceed was to preſs the match forward with ſuch rapidity, that the young lady ſhould have no time to reflect, and be obliged to conſent, while ſhe ſcarce knew what ſhe did; in which manner, ſhe ſaid, one half of the marriages among people of condition were brought about. A fact very probably true, and to which I ſuppoſe is owing the mutual tenderneſs which afterwards exiſts among ſo many happy couples.

A hint of the ſame kind was given by the ſaid Lady to Lord Fellamar; and both theſe ſo readily embraced the advice, that the very next day was, at his lordſhip's requeſt, appointed by Mrs Weſtern for a private interview between the young parties. This was communicated

ted to Sophia by her aunt, and inſiſted upon in ſuch high terms, that, after having urged every thing ſhe could poſſibly invent againſt it, without the leaſt effect, ſhe at laſt agreed to give the higheſt inſtance of complaiſance which any young lady can give, and conſented to ſee his lordſhip.

As converſations of this kind afford no great entertainment, we ſhall be excuſed from reciting the whole that paſt at this interview; in which, after his lordſhip had made many declarations of the moſt pure and ardent paſſion, to the ſilent bluſhing Sophia; ſhe at laſt collected all the ſpirits ſhe could raiſe, and with a trembling low voice ſaid, "My lord, you muſt be yourſelf conſcious whether your former behaviour to me hath been conſiſtent with the profeſſions you now make." "Is there," anſwered he, "no way by which I can atone for madneſs? what I did, I am afraid, muſt have too plainly convinced you, that the violence of love had deprived me of my ſenſes." "Indeed, my lord," ſaid ſhe, "it is in your power to give me a proof of an affection, which I much rather wiſh to encourage, and to which I ſhould think myſelf more beholden."——"Name it, Madam," ſaid my Lord very warmly.——"My lord," ſays ſhe, looking down upon her fan, "I know you muſt be ſenſible how uneaſy this pretended paſſion of yours hath made me."—"Can you be ſo cruel to call it pretended?" ſays he, "Yes, my lord," anſwered Sophia, "all profeſſions of love to thoſe whom we perſecute are moſt inſulting pretences. This purſuit of yours is to me a moſt cruel perſecution; nay, it is taking a moſt ungenerous advantage of my unhappy ſituation." "Moſt lovely, moſt adorable charmer, do not accuſe me," cries he, "of taking an ungenerous advantage, while I have no thoughts but what are directed to your honour and intereſt; and while I have no view, no hope, no ambition, but to throw myſelf, honour, fortune, every thing, at your feet." "My Lord," ſays ſhe, "it is that fortune, and thoſe honours, which give you the advantage of which I complain. Theſe are the charms which have ſeduced my relations, but to me they are things indif-

"ferent.

"ferent. If your lordſhip will merit my gratitude, "there is but one way."——"Pardon me, divine crea- "ture," ſaid he, "there can be none. All I can do "for you is ſo much your due, and will give me ſo much "pleaſure, that there is no room for your gratitude."— "Indeed, my lord," anſwered ſhe, "you may obtain "my gratitude, my good opinion, every kind thought "and wiſh which it is in my power to beſtow; nay, you "may obtain them with eaſe; for ſure to a generous "mind it muſt be eaſy to grant my requeſt. Let me be- "ſeech you then, to ceaſe a purſuit in which you can "never have any ſucceſs. For your own ſake as well "as mine, I intreat this favour: for ſure you are "too noble to have any pleaſure in tormenting an un- "happy creature. What can your lordſhip propoſe but "uneaſineſs to yourſelf, by a perſeverance which, upon "my honour, upon my ſoul, cannot, ſhall not prevail "with me, whatever diſtreſſes you may drive me to."— Here my lord fetched a deep ſigh, and then ſaid,—"Is "it then, Madam, that I am ſo unhappy to be the object "of your diſlike and ſcorn; or will you pardon me if I "ſuſpect there is ſome other?"——Here he heſitated, and Sophia anſwered with ſome ſpirit, "My lord, I ſhall "not be accountable to you for the reaſons of my con- "duct. I am obliged to your lordſhip for the generous "offer you have made; I own it is beyond either my "deſerts or expectations; yet I hope, my lord, you will "not inſiſt on my reaſons, when I declare I cannot ac- "cept it." Lord Fellamar returned much to this, which we do not perfectly underſtand, and perhaps it could not all be ſtrictly reconciled either to ſenſe or grammar; but he concluded his ranting ſpeech with ſaying, "that if "ſhe had pre-engaged herſelf to any gentleman, how- "ever unhappy it would make him, he ſhould think "himſelf bound in honour to deſiſt." Perhaps my lord laid too much emphaſis on the word gentleman; for we cannot elſe account for the indignation with which he inſpired Sophia, who, in her anſwer, ſeemed greatly to reſent ſome affront he had given her.

While ſhe was ſpeaking, with her voice more raiſed than uſual, Mrs Weſtern came into the room, the fire glaring

glaring in her cheeks, and the flames burſting from her eyes. "I am aſhamed," ſays ſhe, "my lord, of the "reception which you have met with. I aſſure your "lordſhip we are all ſenſible of the honour done us; "and I muſt tell you, Miſs Weſtern, the family expect a "different behaviour from you." Here my lord interfered on behalf of the young lady, but to no purpoſe; the aunt proceeded, till Sophia pulled out her handkerchief, threw herſelf into a chair, and burſt into a violent fit of tears.

The remainder of the converſation between Mrs Weſtern and his lordſhip, till the latter withdrew, conſiſted of bitter lamentations on his ſide, and on hers of the ſtrongeſt aſſurances that her niece ſhould and would conſent to all he wiſhed. "Indeed, my lord," ſays ſhe, "the girl hath had a fooliſh education, neither adapted "to her fortune nor her family. Her father, I am ſorry "to ſay it, is to blame for every thing. The girl hath "filly country notions of baſhfulneſs. Nothing elſe, my "lord, upon my honour; I am convinced ſhe hath a "good underſtanding at the bottom, and will be brought "to reaſon."

This laſt ſpeech was made in the abſence of Sophia; for ſhe had ſome time before left the room with more appearance of paſſion than ſhe had ever ſhewn on any occaſion; and now his lordſhip, after many expreſſions of thanks to Mrs Weſtern, many ardent profeſſions of paſſion which nothing could conquer, and many aſſurances of perſeverance, which Mrs Weſtern highly encouraged, took his leave for this time.

Before we relate what now paſſed between Mrs Weſtern and Sophia, it may be proper to mention an unfortunate accident which had happened, and which had occaſioned the return of Mrs Weſtern with ſo much fury, as we have ſeen.

The reader then muſt know, that the maid who at preſent attended on Sophia, was recommended by Lady Bellaſton, with whom ſhe had lived for ſome time in the capacity of a comb-bruſh; ſhe was a very ſenſible girl, and had received the ſtricteſt inſtructions to watch her young lady very carefully. Theſe inſtructions, we are ſorry to ſay,

were communicated to her by Mrs Honour, into whoſe favour Lady Bellaſton had now ſo ingratiated herſelf, that the violent affection which the good waiting-woman had formerly borne to Sophia, was entirely obliterated by that great attachment which ſhe had to her new miſtreſs.

Now when Mrs Miller was departed, Betty, (for that was the name of the girl) returning to her young lady, found her very attentively engaged in reading a long letter, and the viſible emotions which ſhe betrayed on that occaſion might have well accounted for ſome ſuſpicions which the girl entertained; but indeed they had yet a ſtronger foundation, for ſhe had overheard the whole ſcene which paſſed between Sophia and Mrs Miller.

Mrs Weſtern was acquainted with all this matter by Betty, who, after receiving many commendations, and ſome rewards for her fidelity, was ordered, that if the woman who brought the letter came again, ſhe ſhould introduce her to Mrs Weſtern herſelf.

Unluckily Mrs Miller returned at the very time when Sophia was engaged with his lordſhip. Betty, according to order, ſent her directly to the aunt; who being miſtreſs of ſo many circumſtances relating to what had paſſed the day before, eaſily impoſed upon the poor woman to believe that Sophia had communicated the whole affair; and ſo pumped every thing out of her which ſhe knew, relating to the letter, and relating to Jones.

This poor creature might indeed be called ſimplicity itſelf. She was one of that order of mortals who are apt to believe every thing which is ſaid to them; to whom nature hath neither indulged the offenſive nor defenſive weapons of deceit, and who are conſequently liable to be impoſed upon by any one who will only be at the expence of a little falſehood for that purpoſe. Wrs Weſtern having drained Mrs Miller of all ſhe knew, which indeed was but little, but which was ſufficient to make the aunt ſuſpect a great deal, diſmiſſed her with aſſurances that Sophia would not ſee her, that ſhe would ſend no anſwer to the letter, nor ever receive another; nor did ſhe ſuffer her to depart without a handſome lecture on the merits of an office, to which ſhe could afford no better

name

name than that of procureſs.——This diſcovery had greatly diſcompoſed her temper, when coming into the apartment next to that in which the lovers were, ſhe overheard Sophia very warmly proteſting againſt his lordſhip's addreſſes. At which the rage, already kindled, burſt forth, and ſhe ruſhed in upon her niece in a moſt furious manner, as we have already deſcribed, together with what paſt at that time till his lordſhip's departure.

No ſooner was Lord Fellamar gone, than Mrs Weſtern returned to Sophia, whom ſhe upbraided in the moſt bitter terms, for the ill uſe ſhe had made of the confidence repoſed in her; and for her treachery in converſing with a man with whom ſhe had offered but the day before to bind herſelf in the moſt ſolemn oath, never more to have any converſation. Sophia proteſted ſhe had maintained no ſuch converſation. "How, how! Miſs Weſ-"tern," ſaid the aunt, "will you deny your receiving a "letter from him yeſterday?" "A letter, Madam!" anſwered Sophia ſomewhat ſurpriſed. "It is not very "well bred, Miſs," replies the aunt, "to repeat my "words. I ſay a letter, and inſiſt upon your ſhewing it "me immediately." "I ſcorn a lie, Madam," ſaid Sophia; "I did receive a letter, but it was without my "deſire, and indeed I may ſay againſt my conſent."—— "Indeed, indeed, Miſs," cries the aunt, "you ought to "be aſhamed of owning you had received it at all; but "where is the letter? for I will ſee it."

To this peremptory demand Sophia pauſed ſome time before ſhe returned an anſwer; and at laſt only excuſed herſelf, by declaring ſhe had not the letter in her pocket, which was indeed true: upon which her aunt, loſing all manner of patience, aſked her niece this ſhort queſtion, whether ſhe would reſolve to marry Lord Fellamar or no? to which ſhe received the ſtrongeſt negative. Mrs Weſtern then replied with an oath, or ſomething very like one, that ſhe would early the next morning deliver her back into her father's hand.

Sophia then began to reaſon with her aunt in the following manner; "Why, Madam, muſt I of neceſſity be "forced to marry at all? conſider how cruel you would "have thought it in your own caſe, and how much

" kinder your parents were in leaving you to your liber-
" ty? What have I done to forfeit this liberty? I will
" never marry contrary to my father's conſent, nor with-
" out aſking yours.——And when I aſk the conſent of
" either improperly, it will be then time enough to force
" ſome other marriage upon me." " Can I bear to hear
" this," cries Mrs Weſtern, " from a girl who hath now
" a letter from a murderer in her pocket?" " I have
" no ſuch letter I promiſe you," anſwered Sophia; " and
" if he be a murderer, he will ſoon be in no condition to
" give you any further diſturbance." " How, Miſs
" Weſtern," ſaid the aunt, " have you the aſſurance to
" ſpeak of him in this manner, to own your affection
" for ſuch a villain to my face!" " Sure, Madam,"
ſaid Sophia, " you put a very ſtrange conſtruction on
" my words." " Indeed, Miſs Weſtern," cries the lady,
" I ſhall not bear this uſage; you have learnt of your
" father this manner of treating me; he hath taught
" you to give me the lie. He hath totally ruined you
" by his falſe ſyſtem of education; and pleaſe Heaven he
" ſhall have the comforts of its fruits: for once more
" I declare to you, that to-morrow morning I will carry
" you back, I will withdraw all my forces from the
" field, and remain henceforth, like the wiſe king of Pruſ-
" ſia, in a ſtate of perfect neutrality. You are both too
" wiſe to be regulated by my meaſures: ſo prepare your-
" ſelf, for to-morrow morning you ſhall evacuate this
" houſe."

Sophia remonſtrated all ſhe could; but her aunt was deaf to all ſhe ſaid. In this reſolution, therefore, we muſt at preſent leave her, as there ſeems to be no hopes of bringing her to change it.

CHAP. IX.

What happened to Mr Jones *in the Priſon.*

MR JONES paſt about twenty-four melancholy hours by himſelf, unleſs when relieved by the company of Partridge, before Mr Nightingale returned; not that this worthy young man had deſerted or forgot his friend;

for

for indeed he had been much the greateſt part of the time employed in his ſervice.

He had heard, upon enquiry, that the only perſons who had ſeen the beginning of the unfortunate rencounter were a crew belonging to a man of war which then lay at Deptford. To Deptford therefore he went in ſearch of this crew, where he was informed, that the men he ſought after were all gone aſhore. He then traced them from place to place, till at laſt he found two of them drinking together, with a third perſon, at a hedge-tavern near Alderſgate.

Nightingale deſired to ſpeak to Jones by himſelf, (for Partridge was in the room when he came in). As ſoon as they were alone, Nightingale, taking Jones by the hand, cried, "Come, my brave friend, be not too much "dejected at what I am going to tell you.——I am ſor-"ry I am the meſſenger of bad news; but I think it my "duty to tell you." "I gueſs already what that bad "news is," cries Jones. "The poor gentleman then is "dead."——"I hope not," anſwered Nightingale.—"He was alive this morning; though I will not flatter "you: I fear, from the accounts I could get, that his "wound is mortal. But if the affair be exactly as you "told it, your own remorſe would be all you have rea-"ſon to apprehend, let what would happen; but forgive "me, my dear Tom, if I entreat you to make the "worſt of your ſtory to your friends. If you diſguiſe "any thing to us, you will only be an enemy to your-"ſelf."

"What reaſon, my dear Jack, have I ever given you," ſaid Jones, "to ſtab me with ſo cruel a ſuſpicion?"—— "Have patience," cries Nightingale, "and I will tell "you all. After the moſt diligent enquiry I could make, "I at laſt met with two of the fellows who were pre-"ſent at this unhappy accident, and I am ſorry to ſay, "they do not relate the ſtory ſo much in your favour as "you yourſelf have told it." "Why, what do they "ſay?" cries Jones. "Indeed what I am ſorry to re-"peat, as I am afraid of the conſequence of it to you. "They ſay that they were at too great a diſtance to over-"hear any words that paſſed between you; but they both "agree,

" agree, that the firſt blow was given by you." " Then, " upon my ſoul," anſwered Jones, " they injure me. " He not only ſtruck me firſt, but ſtruck me without " the leaſt provocation. What ſhould induce thoſe vil- " lains to accuſe me falſely?" " Nay, that I cannot " gueſs," ſaid Nightingale; " and if you yourſelf, and " I, who am ſo heartily your friend, cannot conceive a " reaſon why they ſhould belie you, what reaſon " will an indifferent court of juſtice be able to aſſign " why they ſhould not believe them? I repeated the " queſtion to them ſeveral times, and ſo did another " gentleman who was preſent, who, I believe, is a ſea- " faring man, and who really acted a very friendly part " by you; for he begged them often to conſider, that " there was the life of a man in the caſe, and aſked " them over and over if they were certain; to which " they both anſwered, that they were, and would abide " by their evidence upon oath. For Heaven's ſake, my " dear friend, recollect yourſelf; for if this ſhould ap- " pear to be the fact, it will be your buſineſs to think in " time of your intereſt. I would not ſhock you; but " you know, I believe, the ſeverity of the law, whatever " verbal provocations may have been given you"——— " Alas! my friend," cries Jones, " what intereſt hath " ſuch a wretch as I? Beſides, do you think I would " even wiſh to live with the reputation of a murderer? " If I had any friends, (as, alas! I have none,) could I " have the confidence to ſolicit them to ſpeak in the be- " half of a man condemned for the blackeſt crime in hu- " man nature? Believe me I have no ſuch hope; but I " have ſome reliance on a throne ſtill greatly ſuperior, " which will, I am certain, afford me all the protection " I merit."

He then concluded with many ſolemn and vehe- ment proteſtations of the truth of what he had at firſt aſſerted.

The faith of Nightingale was now again ſtaggered, and began to incline to credit his friend, when Mrs Mil- ler appeared, and made a ſorrowful report of the ſucceſs of her embaſſy; which, when Jones had heard, he cried out moſt heroically, " Well, my friend, I am now in-

different

"different as to what ſhall happen, at leaſt with re-
"gard to my life; and if it be the will of Heaven that
"I ſhall make an atonement with that for the blood I
"have ſpilt, I hope the Divine Goodneſs will one day
"ſuffer my honour to be cleared, and that the words of
"a dying man at leaſt will be believed, ſo far as to juſti-
"fy his character."

A very mournful ſcene now paſt between the priſoner and his friends, at which, as few readers would have been pleaſed to be preſent, ſo few, I believe, will deſire to hear it particularly related. We will, therefore, paſs on to the entrance of the turnkey, who acquainted Jones that there was a lady without who deſired to ſpeak with him when he was at leiſure,

Jones declared his ſurpriſe at this meſſage. He ſaid, "he knew no lady in the world whom he could poſſibly "expect to ſee there." However, as he ſaw no reaſon to decline ſeeing any perſon, Mrs Miller and Mr Nightingale preſently took their leave, and he gave orders to have the lady admitted.

If Jones was ſurpriſed at the news of a viſit from a lady, how greatly was he aſtoniſhed when he diſcovered this lady to be no other than Mrs Waters! In this aſtoniſhment then we will leave him a while, in order to cure the ſurprize of the reader, who will likewiſe, probably, not a little wonder at the arrival of this lady.

Who this Mrs Waters was the reader pretty well knows; what ſhe was, he muſt be perfectly ſatisfied. He will therefore be pleaſed to remember, that this lady departed from Upton in the ſame coach with Mr Fitzpatrick and the other Iriſh gentleman, and in their company travelled to Bath.

Now there was a certain office in the gift of Mr Fitzpatrick at that time vacant, namely, that of a wife; for the lady who had lately filled that office had reſigned, or at leaſt deſerted her duty. Mr Fitzpatrick having therefore thoroughly examined Mrs Waters on the road, found her extremely fit for the place, which, on their arrival at Bath, he preſently conferred upon her, and ſhe, without any ſcruple accepted. As huſband and wife this gentleman and lady continued together all the time they

ſtayed

ſtayed at Bath, and as huſband and wife they arrived together in town.

Whether Mr Fitzpatrick was ſo wiſe a man as not to part with one good thing till he had ſecured another, which he had at preſent only a proſpect of regaining; or whether Mrs Waters had ſo well diſcharged her office, that he intended ſtill to retain her as principal, and to make his wife (as is often the caſe) only her deputy, I will not ſay; but certain it is, he never mentioned his wife to her, never communicated to her the letter given him by Mrs Weſtern, nor ever once hinted his purpoſe of repoſſeſſing his wife; much leſs did he ever mention the name of Jones: for, though he intended to fight with him where-ever he met him, he did not imitate thoſe prudent perſons, who think a wife, a mother, a ſiſter, or ſometimes a whole family, the ſafeſt ſeconds on theſe occaſions. The firſt account, therefore, which ſhe had of all this, was delivered to her from his lips, after he was brought home from the tavern where his wound had been dreſt.

As Mr Fitzpatrick, however, had not the cleareſt way of telling a ſtory at any time, and was now perhaps a little more confuſed than uſual, it was ſome time before ſhe diſcovered that the gentleman who had given him this wound was the very ſame perſon from whom her heart had received a wound, which, though not of a mortal kind, was yet ſo deep that it had left a conſiderable ſcar behind it. But no ſooner was ſhe acquainted that Mr Jones himſelf was the man who had been committed to the Gate-houſe for this ſuppoſed murder, than ſhe took the firſt opportunity of committing Mr Fitzpatrick to the care of his nurſe, and haſtened away to viſit the conqueror.

She now entered the room with an air of gaiety, which received an immediate check from the melancholy aſpect of poor Jones, who ſtarted and bleſſed himſelf when he ſaw her? Upon which ſhe ſaid, "Nay, I do not wonder at your ſurprize: I believe you did not expect to "ſee me; for few gentlemen are troubled here with viſits from any lady, unleſs a wife. You ſee the power "you have over me, Mr Jones. Indeed I little thought,

"when

" when we parted at Upton, that our next meeting " would have been in ſuch a place." " Indeed, Ma- " dam," ſays Jones, " I muſt look upon this viſit as " kind; few will follow the miſerable, eſpecially to ſuch " diſmal habitations." " I proteſt, Mr Jones," ſays ſhe, " I " can hardly perſuade myſelf you are the ſame agreeable " fellow I ſaw at Upton. Why, your face is more mi- " ſerable than any dungeon in the univerſe. What can " be the matter with you?" " I thought, Madam," ſaid Jones, " as you knew of my being here, you knew " the unhappy reaſon." " Pugh," ſays ſhe, " you have " pinked a man in a duel; that's all." Jones expreſt ſome indignation at this levity, and ſpoke with the utmoſt contrition for what had happened: to which ſhe anſwered, " Well then, Sir, if you take it ſo much to " heart, I will relieve you; the gentleman is not dead, " and I am pretty confident is in no danger of dying. " The ſurgeon indeed who dreſſed him was a young " fellow, and ſeemed deſirous of repreſenting his caſe to " be as bad as poſſible, that he might have the more ho- " nour from curing him; but the king's ſurgeon hath " ſeen him ſince, and ſays, unleſs from a fever, of which " there are at preſent no ſymptoms, he apprehends not " the leaſt danger of life." Jones ſhewed great ſatisfaction in his countenance at this report; upon which ſhe affirmed the truth of it, adding, " By the moſt extraor- " dinary accident in the world I lodge at the ſame houſe, " and have ſeen the gentleman; and I promiſe you he " doth you juſtice, and ſays, " Whatever be the conſe- " quence, that he was entirely the aggreſſor, and that " you was not in the leaſt to blame."

Jones expreſſed the utmoſt ſatisfaction at the account which Mrs Waters brought him. He then informed her of many things which ſhe well knew before, as who Mr Fitzpatrick was, the occaſion of his reſentment, &c. He likewiſe told her ſeveral facts of which ſhe was ignorant, as the adventure of the muff, and other particulars, concealing only the name of Sophia. He then lamented the follies and vices of which he had been guilty, every one of which, he ſaid, had been attended with ſuch ill conſequences, that he ſhould be unpardonable if he did

not take warning, and quit thoſe vicious courſes for the future. He laſtly concluded with aſſuring her of his reſolution to ſin no more, leſt a worſe thing ſhould happen to him.

Mrs Waters with great pleaſantry, ridiculed all this, as the effects of low ſpirits and confinement. She repeated ſome witticiſms about the devil when he was ſick, and told him, "She doubted not but ſhortly to ſee him at "liberty, and as lively a fellow as ever: and then," ſays ſhe, "I don't queſtion but your conſcience will be ſafe-"ly delivered of all theſe qualms that it is now ſo ſick in "breeding."

Many more things of this kind ſhe uttered, ſome of which it would do her no great honour, in the opinion of our readers, to remember; nor are we quite certain but that the anſwers made by Jones would be treated with ridicule by others. We ſhall therefore ſuppreſs the reſt of this converſation, and only obſerve, that it ended at laſt with perfect innocence, and much more to the ſatisfaction of Jones than of the lady: for the former was greatly tranſported with the news ſhe had brought him; but the latter was not altogether ſo pleaſed with the penitential behaviour of a man whom ſhe had at her firſt interview conceived a very different opinion of from what ſhe now entertained of him.

Thus the melancholy occaſioned by the report of Mr Nightingale was pretty well effaced; but the dejection into which Mrs Miller had thrown him ſtill continued. The account ſhe gave ſo well tallied with the words of Sophia herſelf in her letter, that he made not the leaſt doubt but that ſhe had diſcloſed his letter to her aunt, and had taken a fixed reſolution to abandon him. The torments this thought gave him were to be equalled only by a piece of news which fortune yet had in ſtore for him, and which we ſhall communicate in the ſecond chapter of the enſuing book.

THE

THE

HISTORY

OF A

FOUNDLING.

BOOK XVIII.

CONTAINING ABOUT SIX DAYS.

CHAP. I.

A farewell to the Reader.

WE are now, reader, arrived at the laſt ſtage of our long journey. As we have therefore travelled together through ſo many pages, let us behave to one another like fellow-travellers in a ſtage-coach, who have paſſed ſeveral days in the company of each other; and who, notwithſtanding any bickerings or little animoſities which may have occurred on the road, generally make all up at laſt, and mount, for the laſt time, into their vehicle with cheerfulneſs and good-humour; ſince, after this one ſtage, it may poſſibly happen to us, as it commonly happens to them, never to meet more.

As I have here taken up this ſimile, give me leave to carry it a little farther. I intend then, in this laſt book, to imitate the good company I have mentioned in their laſt journey. Now, it is well known, that all jokes and raillery are at this time laid aſide; whatever characters any of the paſſengers have, for the jeſt-ſake, perſonated on

the road, are now thrown off, and the converſation is uſually plain and ſerious.

In the ſame manner, if I have now and then, in the courſe of this work, indulged any pleaſantry for thy entertainment, I ſhall here lay it down. The variety of matter, indeed, which I ſhall be obliged to cram into this book, will afford no room for any of thoſe ludicrous obſervations which I have elſewhere made, and which may ſometimes, perhaps, have prevented thee from taking a nap when it was beginning to ſteal upon thee. In this laſt book thou wilt find nothing (or at moſt very little) of that nature. All will be plain narrative only; and, indeed, when thou haſt peruſed the many great events which this book will produce, thou wilt think the number of pages contained in it ſcarce ſufficient to tell the ſtory.

And now, my friend, I take this opportunity (as I ſhall have no other) of heartily wiſhing thee well. If I have been an entertaining companion to thee, I promiſe thee it is what I deſired. If in any thing I have offended, it was really without any intention. Some things perhaps here ſaid may have hit thee or thy friends; but I do moſt ſolemnly declare they were not pointed at thee or them. I queſtion not but thou haſt been told, among other ſtories of me, that thou waſt to travel with a very ſcurrilous fellow: but whoever told thee ſo, did me an injury. No man deteſts and deſpiſes ſcurrility more than myſelf; nor hath any man more reaſon, for none hath ever been treated with more: and what is a very ſevere fate, I have had ſome of the abuſive writings of thoſe very men fathered upon me, who in other of their works have abuſed me themſelves with the utmoſt virulence.

All theſe works, however, I am well convinced, will be dead long before this page ſhall offer itſelf to thy peruſal: for however ſhort the period may be of my own performances, they will moſt probably outlive their own infirm Author, and the weakly productions of his abuſive cotemporaries.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Containing a very Tragical Incident.

WHILE Jones was employed in thoſe unpleaſant meditations with which we left him tormenting himſelf, Partridge came ſtumbling into the room with his face paler than aſhes, his eyes fixed in his head, his hair ſtanding on end, and every limb trembling. In ſhort, he looked as he would have done had he ſeen a ſpectre, or had he indeed been a ſpectre himſelf.

Jones, who was little ſubject to fear, could not avoid being ſomewhat ſhocked at his ſudden appearance. He did indeed himſelf change colour, and his voice a little faultered, while he aſked him what was the matter.

"I hope, Sir," ſaid Partridge, "you will not be angry with me. Indeed I did not liſten, but I was obliged to ſtay in the outward room. I am ſure I wiſh "I had been a hundred miles off, rather than have "heard what I have heard." "Why, what is the matter?" ſaid Jones. "The matter, Sir? O good heaven! anſwered Partridge, "was that woman who "is juſt gone out the woman who was with you at Upton?" "She was, Partridge," cries Jones. "And "did you really, Sir, go to bed with that woman?" ſaid he trembling—"I am afraid what paſt between us is no "ſecret," ſaid Jones.—"Nay, but pray, Sir, for heaven's ſake, Sir, anſwer me," cries Partridge: "You "know I did," cries Jones.—"Why then the Lord "have mercy upon your ſoul, and forgive you," cries Partridge; "but as ſure as I ſtand here alive you have "been a-bed with your own mother."

Upon theſe words Jones became in a moment a greater picture of horror than Partridge himſelf. He was indeed, for ſome time ſtruck dumb with amazement, and both ſtood ſtaring wildly at each other. At laſt his words found way, and in an interrupted voice he ſaid—"How! how! What's this you tell me?" "Nay, "Sir," cries Partridge, "I have not breath enough left "to tell you now—but what I have ſaid is moſt certainly

"true

" true———That woman who now went out is your
" own mother. How unlucky was it for you, Sir, that
" I did not happen to ſee her at that time, to have pre-
" vented it? Sure the devil himſelf muſt have contrived
" to bring about this wickedneſs."

" Sure," cries Jones, " fortune will never have done
" with me till ſhe hath driven me to diſtraction. But
" why do I blame fortune? I am myſelf the cauſe of all
" my miſery. All the dreadful miſchiefs which have
" befallen me are the conſequences only of my own folly
" and vice. What thou haſt told me, Partridge, hath al-
" moſt deprived me of my ſenſes. And was Mrs Wa-
" ters then——But why do I aſk? For thou muſt cer-
" tainly know her—If thou haſt any affection for me; nay,
" if thou haſt any pity, let me beſeech thee to fetch this
" miſerable woman back again to me. O good heavens!
" inceſt——with a mother! To what am I reſerved?"

He then fell into the moſt violent and frantic agonies of grief and deſpair, in which Partridge declared he would not leave him: but at laſt having vented the firſt torrent of paſſion, he came a little to himſelf; and then having acquainted Partridge that he would find this wretched woman in the ſame houſe where the wounded gentleman was lodged, he diſpatched him in queſt of her.

If the reader will pleaſe to refreſh his memory, by turning to the ſcene at Upton in the ninth book, he will be apt to admire the many ſtrange accidents which unfortunately prevented any interview between Partridge and Mrs Waters, when ſhe ſpent a whole day there with Mr Jones. Inſtances of this kind we may frequently obſerve in life, where the greateſt events are produced by a nice train of little circumſtances; and more than one example may be diſcovered by the accurate eye, in this our hiſtory.

After a fruitleſs ſearch of two or three hours, Partridge returned back to his maſter, without having ſeen Mrs Waters. Jones, who was in a ſtate of deſperation at this delay, was almoſt raving mad when he brought him this account. He was not long however in this condition, before he received the following letter.

" SIR,

"SIR,

"SINCE I left you, I have ſeen a gentleman from "whom I have learnt ſomething concerning you, "which greatly ſurpriſes and affects me; but as I have "not at preſent leiſure to communicate a matter of ſuch "high importance, you muſt ſuſpend your curioſity till "our next meeting, which ſhall be the firſt moment I "am able to ſee you. O Mr Jones! little did I think, "when I paſt that happy day at Upton, the reflection "upon which is like to embitter all my future life, who "it was to whom I owed ſuch perfect happineſs. Believe "me to be ever ſincerely your unfortunate

"J. WATERS.

"*P. S.* I would have you comfort yourſelf as much "as poſſible; for Mr Fitzpatrick is in no manner of "danger; ſo that whatever other grievous crimes you "may have to repent of, the guilt of blood is not among "the number."

Jones having received the letter, let it drop (for he was unable to hold it, and indeed had ſcarce the uſe of any one of his faculties). Partridge took it up, and having received conſent by ſilence, read it likewiſe; nor had it upon him a leſs ſenſible effect. The pencil, and not the pen, ſhould deſcribe the horrors which appeared in both their countenances. While they both remained ſpeechleſs, the turnkey entered the room, and without taking any notice of what ſufficiently diſcovered itſelf in the faces of them both, acquainted Jones that a man without deſired to ſpeak with him. This perſon was preſently introduced, and was no other than Black George.

As ſights of horror were not ſo uſual to George as they were to the turnkey, he inſtantly ſaw the great diſorder which appeared in the face of Jones. This he imputed to the accident that had happened, which was reported in the very worſt light in Mr Weſtern's family: he concluded therefore that the gentleman was dead, and that Mr Jones was in a fair way of coming to a ſhameful end. A thought which gave him much uneaſineſs; for George

was

was of a compaſſionate diſpoſition, and notwithſtanding a ſmall breach of friendſhip which he had been over-tempted to commit, was, in the main, not inſenſible of the obligations he had formerly received from Mr Jones.

The poor fellow therefore ſcarce refrained from a tear at the preſent ſight. He told Jones he was heartily ſorry for his misfortunes, and begged him to conſider if he could be of any manner of ſervice. "Perhaps, Sir," ſaid he, "you want a little matter of money upon this occa-"ſion; if you do, Sir, what little I have is heartily at "your ſervice."

Jones ſhook him very heartily by the hand, and gave him many thanks for the kind offer he had made; but anſwered, "He had not the leaſt want of that kind." Upon which George began to preſs his ſervices more eagerly than before. Jones again thanked him, with aſſurances that he wanted nothing which was in the power of any man living to give. "Come, come, my good maſter," anſwered George, "do not take the matter ſo much to heart, "Things may end better than you imagine; to be ſure "you are not the firſt gentleman who hath killed a man, "and yet come off." "You are void of the matter, "George," ſaid Partridge, "the gentleman is not dead, "nor like to die. Don't diſturb my maſter, at preſent, "for he is troubled about a matter in which it is not in "your power to do him any good." "You don't know "what I may be able to do, Mr Partridge," "anſwered George: "If his concern is about my young lady, I "have ſome news to tell my maſter,"——"What do "you ſay, Mr George?" cries Jones: "Hath any thing "lately happened in which my Sophia is concerned? "My Sophia! how dares ſuch a wretch as I mention "her ſo prophanely!"—"I hope ſhe will be yours, yet," anſwered George, "Why, yes, Sir, I have ſomething "to tell you about her. Madam Weſtern hath juſt "brought Madam Sophia home, and there hath been a "terrible to do. I could not poſſibly learn the very "right of it; but my maſter he hath been in a vaſt big "paſſion, and ſo was Madam Weſtern; and I heard her "ſay, as ſhe went out of doors into her chair, that

"ſhe

"ſhe would never ſet her foot in maſter's houſe a-"gain. I don't know what's the matter, not I, but "every thing was very quiet when I came out; but Ro-"bin, who waited at ſupper, ſaid he had never ſeen "the 'ſquire for a long while in ſuch good humour with "young madam; that he kiſſed her ſeveral times, and "ſwore ſhe ſhould be her own miſtreſs, and he never "would think of confining her any more. I thought "this news would pleaſe you, and ſo I ſlipped out, tho' "it was ſo late, to inform you of it." Mr Jones aſſured George that it did greatly pleaſe him; for though he ſhould never more preſume to lift his eyes towards that incomparable creature, nothing could ſo much relieve his miſery as the ſatisfaction he ſhould always have in hearing of her welfare.

The reſt of the converſation which paſſed at the viſit is not important enough to be here related. The reader will therefore forgive us this abrupt breaking off, and be pleaſed to hear how this great good-will of the 'ſquire towards his daughter was brought about.

Mrs Weſtern, on her firſt arrival at her brother's lodging, began to ſet forth the great honours and advantages which would accrue to the family by the match with Lord Fellamar, which her niece had abſolutely refuſed: in which refuſal, when the 'ſquire took the part of his daughter, ſhe fell immediately into the moſt violent paſſion, and ſo irritated and provoked the 'ſquire, that neither his patience nor his prudence could bear it any longer; upon which there enſued between them both ſo warm a bout at altercation, that perhaps the regions of Billingſgate never equalled it. In the heat of the ſcolding Mrs Weſtern departed, and had conſequently no leiſure to acquaint her brother with the letter which Sophia received, which might have poſſibly produced ill effects; but, to ſay truth, I believe it never once occurred to her memory at this time.

When Mrs Weſtern was gone, Sophia, who had been hitherto ſilent, as well indeed from neceſſity as inclination, began to return the compliment, which her father had made her, in taking her part againſt her aunt, by taking his likewiſe againſt the lady. This was the firſt time of

her ſo doing, and it was in the higheſt degree acceptable to the 'ſquire. Again he remembered, that Mr Allworthy had inſiſted on an entire relinquiſhment of all violent means; and indeed, as he made no doubt but that Jones would be hanged, he did not in the leaſt queſtion ſucceeding with his daughter by fair means: he now therefore once more gave a looſe to his natural fondneſs for her, which had ſuch an effect on the dutiful, grateful, tender, and affectionate heart of Sophia, that, had her honour given to Jones, and ſomething elſe perhaps in which he was concerned, been removed, I much doubt whether ſhe would not have ſacrificed herſelf to a man ſhe did not like, to have obliged her father. She promiſed him ſhe would make it the whole buſineſs of her life to oblige him, and would never marry any man againſt his conſent; which brought the old man ſo near to his higheſt happineſs, that he was reſolved to take the other ſup, and went to bed completely drunk.

CHAP. III.

Allworthy *viſits old* Nightingale; *with a ſtrange Diſcovery that he made on that occaſion.*

THE morning after theſe things had happened, Mr Allworthy went, according to his promiſe, to viſit old Nightingale, with whom his authority was ſo great, that, after having ſat with him three hours, he at laſt prevailed with him to conſent to ſee his ſon.

Here an accident happened of a very extraordinary kind; one indeed of thoſe ſtrange chances, whence very good and grave men have concluded, that Providence often interpoſes in the diſcovery of the moſt ſecret villany, in order to caution men from quitting the paths of honeſty, however warily they tread to thoſe of vice.

Mr Allworthy, at his entrance into Mr Nightingale's, ſaw Black George: he took no notice of him, nor did Black George imagine he had perceived him.

However, when their converſation on the principal point was over, Allworthy aſked Nightingale whether he knew one George Seagrim, and upon what buſineſs he came

came to his houſe? "Yes," anſwered Nightingale, "I "know him very well, and a moſt extraordinary fellow "he is, who in theſe days hath been able to hoard up "500l. from renting a very ſmall eſtate of 30l. a year." "And is this the ſtory which he hath told you?" cries Allworthy. "Nay, it is true, I promiſe you," ſaid Nightingale; "for I have the money now in my own "hands, in five bank-bills, which I am to lay out either "in a mortgage or in ſome purchaſe in the north of "England." The bank-bills were no ſooner produced at Allworthy's deſire, than he bleſſed himſelf at the ſtrangeneſs of the diſcovery. He preſently told Nightingale, that theſe bank-bills were formerly his, and then acquainted him with the whole affair. As there are no men who complain more of the frauds of buſineſs than highwaymen, gameſters, and other thieves of that kind, ſo there are none who ſo bitterly exclaim againſt the frauds of gameſters, &c. as uſurers, brokers, and other thieves of this kind; whether it be, that the one way of cheating is a diſcountenance or reflection upon the other, or that money, which is the common miſtreſs of all cheats, makes them regard each other in the light of rivals; but Nightingale no ſooner heard the ſtory, than he exclaimed againſt the fellow in terms much ſeverer than the juſtice and honeſty of Allworthy had beſtowed on him.

Allworthy deſired Nightingale to retain both the money and the ſecret, till he ſhould hear farther from him; and, if he ſhould in the mean time ſee the fellow, that he would not take the leaſt notice to him of the diſcovery which he had made. He then returned to his lodgings, where he found Mrs Miller in a very dejected condition, on account of the information ſhe had received from her ſon-in-law. Mr Allworthy with great cheerfulneſs told her, that he had much good news to communicate, and with little further preface acquainted her, that he had brought Mr Nightingale to conſent to ſee his ſon, and did not in the leaſt doubt to effect a perfect reconciliation between them, though he found the father more ſoured by another accident of the ſame kind, which had happened in his family: He then mentioned the running away of

the uncle's daughter, which he had been told by the old gentleman, and which Mrs Miller and her ſon-in-law did not yet know.

The reader may ſuppoſe Mrs Miller received this account with great thankfulneſs, and no leſs pleaſure; but ſo uncommon was her friendſhip to Jones, that I am not certain whether the uneaſineſs ſhe ſuffered for his ſake did not over-balance her ſatisfaction at hearing a piece of news tending ſo much to the happineſs of her own family, nor whether even this very news, as it reminded her of the obligations ſhe had to Jones, did not hurt as well as pleaſe her, when her grateful heart ſaid to her, "While my "own family is happy, how miſerable is the poor crea-"ture, to whoſe generoſity we owe the beginning of all "this happineſs!"

Allworthy, having left her a little while to chew the cud (if I may uſe that expreſſion) on theſe firſt tidings, told her he had ſomething more to impart, which he believed would give her pleaſure: "I think," ſaid he, "I "have diſcovered a pretty conſiderable treaſure belong-"ing to the young gentleman, your friend; but per-"haps, indeed, his preſent ſituation may be ſuch that it "will be of no ſervice to him." The latter part of the ſpeech gave Mrs Miller to underſtand who was meant; and ſhe anſwered with a ſigh, "I hope not, Sir." "I "hope ſo too," cries Allworthy, "with all my heart; "but my nephew told me this morning, he had heard a "very bad account of the affair."——"Good Heaven! "Sir," ſaid ſhe,——"Well, I muſt not ſpeak, and yet "it is certainly very hard to be obliged to hold one's "tongue when one hears."——"Madam," ſaid Allworthy, "you may ſay whatever you pleaſe; you know "me too well to think I have a prejudice againſt any "one; and, as for that young man, I aſſure you I ſhould "be heartily pleaſed to find he could acquit himſelf of "every thing, and particularly of this ſad affair. You "can teſtify the affection I have formerly borne him. "The world, I know, cenſured me for loving him ſo "much. I did not withdraw that affection from him, "without thinking I had the juſteſt cauſe. Believe me, "Mrs Miller, I ſhould be glad to find I have been miſ-

"taken."

" taken." Mrs Miller was going eagerly to reply, when a ſervant acquainted her a gentleman without deſired to ſpeak with her immediately. Allworthy then enquired for his nephew, and was told, that he had been for ſome time in his room with the gentleman who had uſed to come to him, and whom Mr Allworthy gueſſing rightly to be Mr Dowling, he deſired preſently to ſpeak with him.

When Dowling attended, Allworthy put the caſe of the bank-notes to him, without mentioning any name, and aſked in what manner ſuch a perſon might be puniſhed? To which Dowling anſwered, he thought he might be indicted on the black act, but ſaid, as it was matter of ſome nicety, it would be proper to go to a counſel. He ſaid he was to attend counſel preſently upon an affair of Mr Weſtern's, and, if Mr Allworthy pleaſed, he would lay the caſe before them. This was agreed to; and then Mrs Miller, opening the door, cried, "I aſk pardon; I did not know you had company;" but Allworthy deſired her to come in, ſaying, "he had "finiſhed his buſineſs:" upon which Mr Dowling withdrew, and Mrs Miller introduced Mr Nightingale the younger, to return thanks for the great kindneſs done him by Allworthy; but ſhe had ſcarce patience to let the young gentleman finiſh his ſpeech before ſhe interrupted him, ſaying, "O, Sir, Mr Nightingale "brings great news about poor Mr Jones; he hath "been to ſee the wounded gentleman, who is out "of all danger of death, and, what is more, declares he "himſelf fell upon Mr Jones and beat him. I am ſure, "Sir, you would not have Mr Jones be a coward. If I "was a man myſelf, I am ſure, if any man was to ſtrike "me, I ſhould draw my ſword. Do pray, my dear, tell "Mr Allworthy, tell him all yourſelf." Nightingale then confirmed what Mrs Miller had ſaid, and concluded with many handſome things of Jones, who was, he ſaid, one of the beſt-natured fellows in the world, and not in the leaſt inclined to be quarrelſome. Here Nightingale was going to ceaſe, when Mrs Miller again begged of him to relate all the many dutiful expreſſions he had heard him make uſe of towards Mr Allworthy. "To "ſay the utmoſt good of Mr Allworthy," cries Nightingale,

ingale, "is doing no more than ſtrict juſtice, and can "have no merit in it; but indeed I muſt ſay, no man "can be more ſenſible of the obligations he hath to ſo "good a man than is poor Jones. Indeed, Sir, I am "convinced the weight of your diſpleaſure is the heavieſt "burden he lies under. He hath often lamented it to "me, and hath as often proteſted in the moſt ſolemn "manner, he hath never been intentionally guilty of "any offence towards you; nay, he hath ſworn he would "rather die a thouſand deaths, than he would have his "conſcience upbraid him with one diſreſpectful, ungrate-"ful, or undutiful thought towards you. But I aſk "pardon, Sir; I am afraid I preſume to intermeddle too "far in ſo tender a point." "You have ſpoke no more "than what a Chriſtian ought," cries Mrs Miller. "In-"deed, Mr Nightingale," anſwered Allworthy, "I ap-"plaud your generous friendſhip, and I wiſh he may "merit it of you. I confeſs I am glad to hear the "report you bring from this unfortunate gentleman; "and if that matter ſhould turn out to be as you repre-"ſent it, (and indeed I doubt nothing of what you ſay,) "I may perhaps in time be brought to think better than "lately I have of this young man: for this good gentle-"woman here, nay all who know me, can witneſs that "I loved him as dearly as if he had been my own ſon. "Indeed I have conſidered him as a child ſent by for-"tune to my care. I ſtill remember the innocent, the "helpleſs ſituation in which I found him. I feel the "tender preſſure of his little hands at this moment.—— "He was my darling; indeed he was:"—At which words he ceaſed, and the tears ſtood in his eyes.

As the anſwer which Mrs Miller made may lead us into freſh matter, we will here ſtop to account for the viſible alteration in Mr Allworthy's mind, and the abatement of his anger to Jones. Revolutions of this kind, it is true, do frequently occur in hiſtories and dramatic writers for no other reaſon, than becauſe the hiſtory or play draws to a concluſion, and are juſtified by authority of authors: yet though we inſiſt upon as much authority as any author whatever, we ſhall uſe this power very ſparingly, and never but when we are driven to it by neceſſi-

ty,

ty, which we do not at preſent foreſee will happen in this work.

This alteration then in the mind of Mr Allworthy was occaſioned by a letter he had juſt received from Mr Square, and which we ſhall give the reader in the beginning of the next chapter.

CHAP. IV.

Containing two Letters in very different Stiles.

"My worthy friend,

"I Informed you in my laſt, that I was forbidden "the uſe of the waters, as they were found by ex- "perience rather to increaſe than leſſen the ſymptoms "of my diſtemper. I muſt now acquaint you with a "piece of news, which, I believe, will afflict my friends "more than it hath afflicted me. Dr Harrington and "Dr Brewſter, have informed me that there is no hope "of my recovery.

"I have ſomewhere read, that the great uſe of philo- "ſophy is to learn to die. I will not therefore ſo far diſ- "grace mine, as to ſhew any ſurprize at receiving a leſ- "ſon which I muſt be thought to have ſo long ſtudied. "Yet, to ſay the truth, one page of the goſpel teaches "this leſſon better than all the volumes of ancient or "modern philoſophers. The aſſurance it gives us of "another life is a much ſtronger ſupport to a good "mind, than all the conſolations that are drawn from "the neceſſity of nature, the emptineſs or fatiety of our "enjoyments here, or any other topic of thoſe decla- "mations, which are ſometimes capable of arming our "minds with a ſtubborn patience in bearing the thoughts "of death, but never of raiſing them to a real contempt "of it, and much leſs of making us think it is a real "good. I would not here be underſtood to throw the "horrid cenſure of atheiſm, or even the abſolute denial "of immortality, on all who are called philoſophers. "Many of that ſect, as well ancient as modern, have "from the light of reaſon diſcovered ſome hopes of a

"future

" future ſtate; but in reality, that light was ſo faint and " glimmering, and the hopes were ſo uncertain and pre- " carious, that it may be juſtly doubted on which ſide " their belief turned. Plato himſelf concludes his Phæ- " don with declaring, that his beſt arguments amount " only to raiſe a probability; and Cicero himſelf ſeems " rather to profeſs an inclination to believe, than any ac- " tual belief in the doctrines of immortality. As to " myſelf, to be very ſincere with you, I never was " much in earneſt in this faith, till I was in earneſt a " Chriſtian.

" You will perhaps wonder at the latter expreſſion; " but I aſſure you, it hath not been till very lately that " I could with truth call myſelf ſo. The pride of phi- " loſophy had intoxicated my reaſon, and the ſublimeſt " of all wiſdom appeared to me, as it did to the Greeks " of old, to be fooliſhneſs. God hath however been ſo " gracious to ſhew me my error in time, and to bring " me into the way of truth, before I ſunk into utter " darkneſs for ever.

" I find myſelf beginning to grow weak, I ſhall " therefore haſten to the main purpoſe of this letter.

" When I reflect on the actions of my paſt life, I " know of nothing which ſits heavier upon my conſcience, " than the injuſtice I have been guilty of to that poor " wretch your adopted ſon. I have indeed not only " connived at the villany of others, but been myſelf ac- " tive in injuſtice towards him. Believe me, my dear " friend, when I tell you on the word of a dying man, " he hath been baſely injured. As to the principal fact, " upon the miſrepreſentation of which you diſcarded " him, I ſolemnly aſſure you he is innocent. When you " lay upon your ſuppoſed death-bed, he was the only " perſon in the houſe who teſtified any real concern; " and what happened afterwards aroſe from the wildneſs " of his joy on your recovery; and, I am ſorry to ſay " it, from the baſeneſs of another perſon (but it is my " deſire to juſtify the innocent, and to accuſe none.) Be- " lieve me, my friend, this young man hath the nobleſt " generoſity of heart, the moſt perfect capacity for friend- " ſhip, the higheſt integrity, and indeed every virtue

" which

"which can ennoble a man. He hath ſome faults, but
"among them is not to be numbered the leaſt want of
"duty or gratitude towards you. On the contrary, I
"am ſatisfied, when you diſmiſſed him from your houſe,
"his heart bled for you more than for himſelf.

"Worldly motives were the wicked and baſe reaſons
"of my concealing this from you ſo long; to reveal it
"now, I can have no inducement but the deſire of ſer-
"ving the cauſe of truth, of doing right to the inno-
"cent, and of making all the amends in my power for
"a paſt offence. I hope this declaration therefore will
"have the effect deſired, and will reſtore this deſerving
"young man to your favour; the hearing of which,
"while I am yet alive, will afford the utmoſt conſola-
"tion to,

"SIR,

"Your moſt obliged,

"Obedient humble ſervant,

"THOMAS SQUARE."

The reader will, after this, ſcarce wonder at the revolution ſo viſibly appearing in Mr Allworthy, notwithſtanding he received from Thwackum, by the ſame poſt, another letter of a very different kind, which we ſhall here add, as it may poſſibly be the laſt time we ſhall have occaſion to mention the name of that gentleman.

"SIR,

"I am not at all ſurpriſed at hearing from your wor-
"thy nephew a freſh inſtance of the villany of Mr
"Square the atheiſt's young pupil. I ſhall not won-
"der at any murders he may commit; and I heartily
"pray that your own blood may not ſeal up his final
"commitment to the place of wailing and gnaſhing of
"teeth.

"Though you cannot want ſufficient calls to repent-
"ance for the many unwarrantable weakneſſes exem-

" plified in your behaviour to this wretch, ſo much to the " prejudice of your own lawful family, and of your cha- " racter; I ſay, though theſe may ſufficiently be ſuppoſed " to prick and goad your conſcience at this ſeaſon, I " ſhould yet be wanting to my duty, if I ſpared to give " you ſome admonition, in order to bring you to a due " ſenſe of your errors. I therefore pray you ſeriouſly " to conſider the judgment which is likely to overtake " this wicked villain, and let it ſerve at leaſt as a warn- " ing to you, that you may not for the future deſpiſe the " advice of one who is ſo indefatigable in his prayers for " your welfare."

" Had not my hand been with-held from due correc- " tion, I had ſcourged much of this diabolical ſpirit out of " a boy, of whom, from his infancy, I diſcovered the " Devil had taken ſuch entire poſſeſſion; but reflections " of this kind now come too late.

" I am ſorry you have given away the living of Weſ- " terton ſo haſtily. I ſhould have applied on that occa- " ſion earlier, had I thought you would not have ac- " quainted me previous to the diſpoſition.——Your ob- " jection to pluralities is being righteous over-much. If " there were any crime in the practice, ſo many godly " men would not agree to it. If the vicar of Alder- " grove ſhould die (as we hear he is in a declining way) " I hope you will think of me, ſince I am certain you " muſt be convinced of my moſt ſincere attachment to your " higheſt welfare. A welfare to which all worldly conſi- " derations are as trifling as the ſmall tithes mentioned " in ſcripture are, when compared to the weighty mat- " ters of the law.

" I am, SIR,

" Your faithful humble ſervant,

" ROGER THWACKUM."

This was the firſt time Thwackum ever wrote in this authoritative ſtile to Allworthy, and of this he had afterwards ſufficient reaſon to repent, as in the caſe of thoſe who miſtake the higheſt degree of goodneſs for the low-

eſt

eſt degree of weakneſs. Allworthy had indeed never liked this man. He knew him to be proud and ill-natured; he alſo knew that his divinity itſelf was tinctured with his temper, and ſuch as in many reſpects he himſelf did by no means approve; but he was at the ſame time an excellent ſcholar, and moſt indefatigable in teaching the two lads. Add to this the ſtrict ſeverity of his life and manners, an unimpeached honeſty, and a moſt devout attachment to religion. So that, upon the whole, though Allworthy did not eſteem nor love the man, yet he could never bring himſelf to part with a tutor to the boys, who was, both by learning and induſtry, extremely well qualified for his office: and he hoped, that as they were bred up in his own houſe, and under his own eye, he ſhould be able to correct whatever was wrong in Thwackum's inſtructions.

CHAP. V.

In which the Hiſtory is continued.

MR ALLWORTHY in his laſt ſpeech had recollected ſome tender ideas concerning Jones, which had brought tears into the good man's eyes. This Mrs Miller obſerving, ſaid, "Yes, yes, Sir, your goodneſs to this "poor young man is known, notwithſtanding all your "care to conceal it; but there is not a ſingle ſyllable of "truth in what thoſe villains ſaid. Mr Nightingale "hath now diſcovered the whole matter. It ſeems theſe "fellows were employed by a lord, who is a rival of "poor Mr Jones, to have preſſed him on board a ſhip.— "I aſſure them I don't know who they will preſs next. "Mr Nightingale here hath ſeen the officer himſelf, "who is a very pretty gentleman, and hath told him all, "and is very ſorry for what he undertook, which he "would never have done had he known Mr Jones to "have been a gentleman; but he was told that he was "a common ſtrolling vagabond."

Allworthy ſtared at all this, and declared he was a ſtranger to every word ſhe ſaid. "Yes, Sir," anſwered ſhe,

" I believe you are.——It is a very different ſtory, I be-
" lieve, from what thoſe fellows told the lawyer."

" What lawyer, Madam? what is it you mean?" ſaid Allworthy. " Nay, nay," ſays ſhe, " this is ſo like you " to deny your own goodneſs; but Mr Nightingale here " ſaw him." " Saw whom, Madam?" anſwered he; " Why, your lawyer, Sir," ſaid ſhe, " that you ſo kindly " ſent to inquire into the affair." " I am ſtill in the " dark, upon my honour," ſaid Allworthy. " Why " then, do you tell him, my dear Sir," cried ſhe. " In-" deed Sir," ſaid Nightingale, " I did ſee that very law-" yer, who went from you when I came into the room, " at an alehouſe in Alderſgate, in company with two of " the fellows who were employed by Lord Fellamar to " preſs Mr Jones, and who were by that means preſent " at the unhappy rencounter between him and Mr Fitz-" patrick." " I own, Sir, ſaid Mrs Miller, " when I " ſaw this gentleman come into the room to you, I told " Mr Nightingale that I apprehended you had ſent him " thither to inquire into the affair." Allworthy ſhewed marks of aſtoniſhment in his countenance at this news, and was indeed for two or three minutes ſtruck dumb by it. At laſt, addreſſing himſelf to Mr Nightingale, he ſaid, " I muſt confeſs myſelf, Sir, more ſurpriſed at what " you tell me, than I have ever been before at any thing " in my whole life. Are you certain this was the gen-" tleman?" " I am moſt certain," anſwered Nightin-" gale. " At Alderſgate?" cries Allworthy. " And " was you in company with this lawyer and the two fel-" lows?"—" I was, Sir," ſaid the other, " very near " half an hour."—" Well, Sir," ſaid Allworthy, " and " in what manner did he behave? did you hear all that " paſt between him and the fellows?" " No, Sir," an-ſwered Nightingale, " they had been together before I " came——In my preſence the lawyer ſaid little; but " after I had ſeveral times examined the fellows, who " perſiſted in a ſtory directly contrary to what I had " heard from Mr Jones, and which I find by Mr Fitz-" patrick was a rank falſehood; the lawyer then deſired " the fellows to ſay nothing but what was the truth, and " ſeemed to ſpeak ſo much in favour of Mr Jones, that,

" when

"when I ſaw the ſame perſon with you, I concluded "your goodneſs had prompted you to ſend him thither." ——"And did you not ſend him thither?" ſays Miller.— "Indeed I did not," anſwered Allworthy; nor did I "know he had gone on ſuch an errand till this mo- "ment."——"I ſee it all!" ſaid Mrs Miller: "upon "my ſoul, I ſee it all! No wonder they have been cloſet- "ed ſo cloſe lately. Son Nightingale, let me beg you "run for theſe fellows immediately——find them out "if they are above ground. I will go myſelf."—"Dear "Madam," ſaid Allworthy, "be patient, and do me the "favour to ſend a ſervant up ſtairs to call Mr Dowling "hither, if he be in the houſe, or, if not, Mr Bliſil."— Mrs Miller went out muttering ſomething to herſelf, and preſently returned with an anſwer, "That Mr Dowling "was gone, but that the t'other," as ſhe called him, "was coming."

Allworthy was of a cooler diſpoſition than the good woman, whoſe ſpirits were all up in arms in the cauſe of her friend. He was not however without ſome ſuſpicions which were near akin to hers. When Bliſil came into the room, he aſked him with a very ſerious countenance, and with a leſs friendly look than he had ever before given him, "Whether he knew any thing of Mr Dow- "ling's having ſeen any of the perſons who were pre- "ſent at the duel between Jones and another gen- "tleman."

There is nothing ſo dangerous as a queſtion which comes by ſurprize on a man whoſe buſineſs it is to conceal truth or to defend falſehood: for which reaſon thoſe worthy perſonages, whoſe noble office it is to ſave the lives of their fellow-creatures at the Old-Bailey, take the utmoſt care, by frequent previous examination, to divine every queſtion which may be aſked their clients on the day of trial, that they may be ſupplied with proper and ready anſwers, which the moſt fertile invention cannot ſupply in an inſtant. Beſides, the ſudden and violent impulſe on the blood, occaſioned by theſe ſurpriſes, cauſes frequently ſuch an alteration in the countenance, that the man is obliged to give evidence againſt himſelf: and ſuch indeed were the alterations which the countenance

of

of Blifil underwent from this ſudden queſtion, that we can ſcarce blame the eagerneſs of Mrs Miller, who immediately cried out, "Guilty, upon my honour! guilty, "upon my ſoul!".

Mr Allworthy ſharply rebuked her for this impetuoſity; and then turning to Blifil, who ſeemed ſinking into the earth, he ſaid, "Why do you heſitate, Sir, at giving "me an anſwer? You certainly muſt have employed "him; for he would not of his own accord, I believe, "have undertaken ſuch an errand, and eſpecially without acquainting me."

Blifil then anſwered, "I own, Sir, I have been guilty of an offence, yet may I hope your pardon?"—— "My pardon," ſaid Allworthy very angrily.——"Nay, "Sir," anſwered Blifil, "I knew you would be offended; yet ſurely my dear uncle will forgive the effects "of the moſt amiable of human weakneſſes. Compaſſion for thoſe who do not deſerve it, I own is a crime; "and yet it is a crime from which you yourſelf are not "entirely free. I know I have been guilty of it in more "than one inſtance to this very perſon; and I will own "I did ſend Mr Dowling, not on a vain and fruitleſs "inquiry, but to diſcover the witneſſes, and to endeavour to ſoften their evidence. This, Sir, is the truth, "which, though I intended to conceal from you, I will "not deny."

"I confeſs," ſaid Nightingale, "this is the light in "which it appeared to me from the gentleman's behaviour."

"Now, Madam," ſaid Allworthy, "I believe you "will once in your life own you have entertained a wrong "ſuſpicion, and are not ſo angry with my nephew as you "was."

Mrs Miller was ſilent; for though ſhe could not ſo haſtily be pleaſed with Blifil, whom ſhe looked upon to have been the ruin of Jones, yet in this particular inſtance he had impoſed upon her as well as upon the reſt, ſo entirely had the Devil ſtood his friend: and indeed I look upon the vulgar obſervation, "That the Devil often "deſerts his friends, and leaves them in the lurch," to be a great abuſe on that gentleman's character. Perhaps he

he may ſometimes deſert thoſe who are only his cup acquaintance, or who at moſt are but half his; but he generally ſtands by thoſe who are thoroughly his ſervants, and helps them off in all extremities, till their bargain expires.

As a conquered rebellion ſtrengthens a government, or as health is more perfectly eſtabliſhed by recovery from ſome diſeaſes; ſo anger, when removed, often gives life to affection. This was the caſe of Mr Allworthy; for Bliſil having wiped off the greater ſuſpicion, the leſſer, which had been raiſed by Square's letter, ſunk of courſe, and was forgotten, and Thwackum, with whom he was greatly offended, bore alone all the reflections which Square haſt caſt on the enemies of Jones.

As for that young man, the reſentment of Mr Allworthy began more and more to abate towards him. He told Bliſil, "He did not only forgive the extraordinary "efforts of his good-nature, but would give him the plea-"ſure of following his example." Then turning to Mrs Miller, with a ſmile which would have become an angel, he cry'd, "What ſay you, Madam; ſhall we "take a hackney-coach, and all of us together pay a vi-"ſit to your friend? I promiſe you it is not the firſt "viſit I have made in a priſon."

Every reader, I believe, will be able to anſwer for the worthy woman; but they muſt have a great deal of good-nature, and be well acquainted with friendſhip, who can feel what ſhe felt on this occaſion. Few, I hope, are capable of feeling what now paſt in the mind of Bliſil; but thoſe who are, will acknowledge, that it was impoſſible for him to raiſe any objection to this viſit. Fortune, however, or the gentleman lately mentioned above, ſtood his friend, and prevented his undergoing ſo great a ſhock; for at the very inſtant when the coach was ſent for, Partridge arrived, and having called Mrs Miller from the company, acquainted her with the dreadful accident lately come to light; and hearing Mr Allworthy's intention, begged her to find ſome means of ſtopping him; "For," ſays he, "the matter muſt at all hazards be kept a ſecret "from him; and if he ſhould now go, he will find Jones "and his mother, who arrived juſt as I left him, lament-

"ing

" ing over one another the horrid crime they have ig-
" norantly committed."

The poor woman, who was almoſt deprived of her ſenſes at this dreadful news, was never leſs capable of invention than at preſent, However, as women are much readier at this than men, ſhe bethought herſelf of an excuſe, and returning to Allworthy ſaid, " I am ſure, Sir,
" you will be ſurprized at hearing any objection from me
" to the kind propoſal you juſt now made; and yet I am
" afraid of the conſequence of it, if carried immediately
" into execution. You muſt imagine, Sir, that all the
" calamities which have lately befallen this poor young
" fellow, muſt have thrown him into the loweſt dejec-
" tion of ſpirits; and now, Sir, ſhould we all on a
" ſudden fling him into ſuch a violent fit of joy, as I
" know your preſence will occaſion, it may, I am afraid,
" produce ſome fatal miſchief, eſpecially as his ſervant,
" who is without, tells me he is very far from being
" well."

" Is his ſervant without?" cries Allworthy; " pray
" call him hither. I will aſk him ſome queſtions con-
" cerning his maſter."

Partridge was at firſt afraid to appear before Mr Allworthy; but was at length perſuaded, after Mrs Miller, who had often heard his whole ſtory from his own mouth, had promiſed to introduce him.

Allworthy recollected Partridge the moment he came into the room, though many years had paſſed ſince he had ſeen him. Mrs Miller therefore might have ſpared here a formal oration, in which indeed ſhe was ſomething prolix: for the reader, I believe, may have obſerved already, that the good woman, among other things, had a tongue always ready for the ſervice of her friends.

" And are you," ſaid Allworthy to Partridge, " the
" ſervant of Mr Jones?" " I can't ſay, Sir," anſwered he, " that I am regularly a ſervant, but I live with him,
" an't pleaſe your honour, at preſent; *non ſum qualis*
" *eram*, as your honour very well knows."

Mr Allworthy then aſked him many queſtions concerning Jones, as to his health, and other matters: to all which

which Partridge anſwered, without having in the leaſt any regard to what was, but conſidered only what he would have things appear; for a ſtrict adherence to truth was not among the articles of this honeſt fellow's morality, or his religion.

During this dialogue Mr Nightingale took his leave, and preſently after Mrs Miller left the room, when Allworthy likewiſe diſpatched Blifil; for he imagined that Partridge, when alone with him, would be more explicit than before company. They were no ſooner left in private together, than Allworthy began as in the following chpter.

CHAP. VI.

In which the Hiſtory is farther continued.

"SURE, friend," ſaid the good man, "you are the "ſtrangeſt of all human beings. Not only to have "ſuffered as you have formerly, for obſtinately perſiſting "in a falſehood; but to perſiſt in it thus to the laſt, and "to paſs thus upon the world for the ſervant of your "own ſon? What intereſt can you have in all this? "What can be your motive?"

"I ſee, Sir," ſaid Partridge, falling down upon his knees, "that your Honour is prepoſſeſſed againſt me, and "reſolved not to believe any thing I ſay, and therefore "what ſignifies my proteſtations? but yet there is one "above who knows that I am not the father of this young "man."

"How!" ſaid Allworthy, "will you yet deny what "you was formerly convicted of upon ſuch unanſwer-"able, ſuch manifeſt evidence? Nay, what a confirma-"tion is your being now found with this very man, of "all which twenty years ago appeared againſt you. I "thought you had left the country; nay, I thought you "had long ſince been dead.—In what manner did you "know any thing of this young man? Where did you "meet with him, unleſs you had kept ſome correſpon-"dence together: Do not deny this; for I promiſe you "it will greatly raiſe your ſon in my opinion, to find that

" he hath ſuch a ſenſe of filial duty, as privately to ſup-
" port his father for ſo many years."

" If your honour will have patience to hear me," ſaid Partridge, I will tell you all.——Being bid go on, he proceeded thus: " When your honour conceived that " diſpleaſure againſt me, it ended in my ruin ſoon after, " for I loſt my little ſchool; and the miniſter, thinking, " I ſuppoſe, it would be agreeable to your honour, turn-" ed me out from the office of clerk; ſo that I had " nothing to truſt to but the barber's ſhop, which, in a " country place like that, is a poor livelihood; and when " my wife died (for till that time I received a penſion " of 12l. a-year from an unknown hand, which indeed " I believe was your honour's own, for no body that " ever I heard of doth theſe things beſides;) but as I " was ſaying, when ſhe died, this penſion forſook me; " ſo that now as I owed two or three ſmall debts, which " began to be troubleſome to me, particularly one, which " an attorney brought up by law-charges from 15s. to " near 20l.*; and as I found all my uſual means of li-" ving had forſook me, I packed up my little all as well " as I could, and went off."

" The firſt place I came to was Saliſbury, where I " got into the ſervice of a gentleman belonging to the " law, and one of the beſt gentlemen that ever I knew; " for he was not only good to me, but I know a thou-" ſand good and charitable acts which he did, while I " ſtaid with him; and I have known him often refuſe " buſineſs, becauſe it was paultry and oppreſſive."——" You need not be ſo particular," ſaid Allworthy; " I " know this gentleman, and a very worthy man he is, " and an honour to his profeſſion."——" Well, Sir," continued Partridge, " from hence I removed to Lyming-" ton, where I was above three years in the ſervice of " another

* This is a fact, which I knew happened to a poor clergyman in Dorſetſhire by the villany of an attorney, who, not contented with the exorbitant coſts to which the poor man was put by a ſingle action, brought afterwards another action on the judgment, as it was called:—A method frequently uſed to oppreſs the poor, and bring money into the pockets of attorneys, to the great ſcandal of the law, of the nation of Chriſtianity, and even of human nature itſelf.

" another lawyer, who was likewiſe a very good ſor ſot " a man, and to be ſure one of the merrieſt gentlemen " in England. Well, Sir, at the end of the three years I " ſet up a little ſchool, and was likely to do well again, " had it not been for a moſt unlucky accident. Here I " kept a pig; and one day, as ill fortune would have it, " this pig broke out, and did a treſpaſs, I think they call " it, in a garden belonging to one of my neighbours, who " was a proud revengeful man, and employed a lawyer; " one,—one—I can't think of his name; but he ſent for " a writ againſt me, and had me to 'ſize. When I came " there, Lord have mercy upon me——to hear what " the counſellor ſaid. There was one who told my lord " a parcel of the confoundedeſt lies about me; he ſaid, " that I uſed to drive my hogs into other folks gardens, " and a great deal more: and at laſt ſaid, He hoped " I had at laſt brought my hogs to a fair market. To " be ſure one would have thought, that inſtead of being " owner only of one poor little pig, I had been the great- " eſt hog-merchant in England. Well,"—" Pray," ſays Allworthy, " do not be ſo particular. I have heard no- " thing of your ſon yet." " O it was a great many " years," anſwered Partridge, " before I ſaw my ſon, as " you are pleaſed to call him.——I went over to Ire- " land after this, and taught ſchool at Cork, (for that " one ſuit ruined me again, and I lay ſeven years in " Wincheſter goal.)"—" Well," ſaid Allworthy, " paſs " that over till you return to England."——" Then, " Sir," ſaid he, " it was about half a year ago that I " landed at Briſtol, where I ſtaid ſome time, and not " finding it do there, and hearing of a place between " that and Glouceſter, where the barber was juſt dead, " I went thither, and there I had been about two " months, when Mr Jones came thither." He then gave Allworthy a very particular account of their firſt meeting, and of every thing, as well as he could remember, which had happened from that day to this; frequently interlarding his ſtory with panegyrics on Jones, and not forgetting to inſinuate the great love and reſpect which he had to Allworthy. He concluded with ſaying, " Now, " Sir, I have told your Honour the whole truth." And

then repeated a moſt ſolemn proteſtation, "That he "was no more the father of Jones than of the pope of "Rome;" and imprecated the moſt bitter curſes on his head, if he did not ſpeak truth.

"What am I to think of this matter?" cries Allworthy. "For what purpoſe ſhould you ſo ſtrongly deny a "fact, which I think it would be rather your intereſt to "own?"—"Nay, Sir," anſwered Partridge, (for he could hold no longer) "if your Honour will not believe me, "you are like ſoon to have ſatisfaction enough. I wiſh "you had miſtaken the mother of this young man, as "well as you have his father."——And now being aſked what he meant, with all the ſymptoms of horror, both in his voice and countenance, he told Allworthy the whole ſtory, which he had a little before expreſſed ſuch deſire to Mrs Miller to conceal from him.

Allworthy was almoſt as much ſhocked at this diſcovery as Partridge himſelf had been while he related it.—"Good heavens!" ſays he, "in what miſerable diſtreſſes "do vice and imprudence involve men! How much be-"yond our deſigns are the effects of wickedneſs ſome-"times carried!" He had ſcarce uttered theſe words, when Mrs Waters came haſtily and abruptly into the room. Partridge no ſooner ſaw her, then he cried, "Here, Sir, is the very woman herſelf. This is the un-"fortunate mother of Mr Jones; I am ſure ſhe will acquit "me before your Honour.—Pray, Madam"——

Mrs Waters, without paying any regard to what Partridge ſaid, and almoſt without taking any notice of him, advanced to Mr Allworthy: "I believe, Sir, it is ſo "long ſince I had the honour of ſeeing you, that you do "not recollect me."——"Indeed, anſwered Allworthy, "you are ſo very much altered on many accounts, that, "had not this man already acquainted me who you are, I "ſhould not have immediately called you to my remem-"brance. Have you, Madam, any particular buſineſs "which brings you to me?"—Allworthy ſpoke this with great reſerve; for the reader may eaſily believe he was not well pleaſed with the conduct of this lady; neither with that he had formerly heard, nor with what Partridge now delivered.

Mrs

Mrs Waters anſwered,—" Indeed, Sir, I have very " particular buſineſs with you: and it is ſuch as I can " impart only to yourſelf.—I muſt deſire therefore the " favour of a word with you alone; for I aſſure you, " what I have to tell you is of the utmoſt importance."

Partridge was then ordered to withdraw, but before he went, he begged the lady to ſatisfy Mr Allworthy that he was perfectly innocent. To which ſhe anſwered—— " You need be under no apprehenſion, Sir, I ſhall ſatis- " fy Mr Allworthy very perfectly of that matter."

Then Partridge withdrew, and that paſt between Mr Allworthy and Mrs Waters which is written in the next chapter.

CHAP. VII.

Continuation of the Hiſtory.

MRS Waters remaining a few moments ſilent, Mr Allworthy could not refrain from ſaying, " I " am ſorry, Madam, to perceive by what I have ſince " heard, that you have made ſo very ill a uſe"——— " Mr Allworthy," ſays ſhe, interrupting him, " I know " I have faults, but ingratitude to you is not one " of them. I never can nor ſhall forget your goodneſs, " which I own I have very little deſerved; but be pleaſ- " ed to wave all upbraiding me at preſent, as I have ſo " important an affair to communicate to you concerning " this young man, to whom you have given my maiden " name of Jones."

" Have I then," ſaid Allworthy, " ignorantly puniſhed " an innocent man, in the perſon of him who hath juſt " left us? Was he not the father of the child?"—" In- " deed he was not," ſays Mrs Waters. " You may be " pleaſed to remember, Sir, I formerly told you, you ſhould " one day know; and I acknowledge myſelf to have been " guilty of a cruel neglect, in not having diſcovered it to " you before. Indeed I little knew how neceſſary it was." " Well, Madam," ſaid Allworthy, " be pleaſed to pro- " ceed." " You muſt remember, Sir," ſaid ſhe, " a " young fellow, whoſe name was Summer." " Very

" well,"

" well," cries Allworthy, " he was the ſon of a clergy-
" man of great learning and virtue, for whom I had the
" higheſt friendſhip."—" So it appeared, Sir," anſwer-
ed ſhe; " for I believe you bred the young man up,
" and maintained him at the Univerſity; where, I think,
" he had finiſhed his ſtudies, when he came to reſide at
" your houſe; a finer man, I muſt ſay, the ſun never
" ſhone upon; for, beſides the handſomeſt perſon I ever
" ſaw, he was ſo genteel, and had ſo much wit and good
" breeding." " Poor gentleman," ſaid Allworthy, " he
" was indeed untimely ſnatched away; and little did I
" think he had any ſins of this kind to anſwer for; for
" I plainly perceive you are going to tell me he was the
" father of your child."

" Indeed, Sir," anſwered ſhe, " he was not." " How!"
ſaid Allworthy, " to what then tends all this preface?"
" To a ſtory, Sir," ſaid ſhe, " which I am concerned
" falls to my lot to unfold to you.—O, Sir, prepare to
" hear ſomething which will ſurpriſe you, will grieve
" you." " Speak," ſaid Allworthy, " I am conſcious
" of no crime, and cannot be afraid to hear."——" Sir,"
ſaid ſhe, " that Mr Summer, the ſon of your friend, e-
" ducated at your expence, who, after living a year in
" the houſe as if he had been your own ſon, died there
" of the ſmall-pox, was tenderly lamented by you, and
" buried as if he had been your own; that Summer, Sir,
" was the father of this child."——" How!" ſaid All-
" worthy, " you contradict yourſelf."——" That I do
" not," anſwered ſhe, " he was indeed the father of this
" child, but not by me." " Take care, Madam," ſaid
Allworthy, " do not, to ſhun the imputation of any crime,
" be guilty of falſehood. Remember there is one from
" whom you can conceal nothing, and before whoſe tri-
" bunal falſehood will only aggravate your guilt." " In-
" deed, Sir," ſaid ſhe, " I am not his mother; nor would
" I now think myſelf ſo for the world." " I know
" your reaſon," ſays Allworthy, " and ſhall rejoice as
" much as you to find it otherwiſe; yet you muſt
" remember, you yourſelf confeſt it before me."——
" So far what I confeſt," ſaid ſhe, " was true, that theſe
" hands conveyed the infant to your bed; conveyed
" it thither at the command of its mother; at her com-

" mand

"mands I afterwards owned it, and thought myſelf, by "her generoſity, nobly rewarded, both for my ſecrecy "and my ſhame." "Who could this woman be?" ſaid Allworthy. "Indeed I tremble to name her," anſwered Mrs Waters. "By all this preparation I am to "gueſs that ſhe was a relation of mine," cried he "Indeed ſhe was a near one." At which words Allworthy ſtarted, and ſhe continued——"You had a ſiſter, "Sir,"—"A ſiſter!" repeated he, looking aghaſt.—— "As there is truth in heaven," cried ſhe, "your ſiſter "was the mother of that child you found between your "ſheets." "Can it be poſſible?" cries he, "good "heavens!" "Have patience, Sir," ſaid Mrs Waters, "and I will unfold to you the whole ſtory. Juſt "after your departure for London, Miſs Bridget came "one day to the houſe of my mother. She was pleaſed "to ſay ſhe had heard an extraordinary character of me, "for my learning and ſuperior underſtanding to all the "young women there; ſo ſhe was pleaſed to ſay. She then "bid me come to her to the great houſe, where, when I "attended, ſhe employed me to read to her. She expreſ-"ſed great ſatisfaction in my reading, ſhewed great kind-"neſs to me, and made me many preſents. At laſt ſhe be-"gan to catechiſe me on the ſubject of ſecrecy, to which "I gave her ſuch ſatisfactory anſwers, that at laſt, ha-"ving locked the door of her room, ſhe took me into "her cloſet, and, then locking that door likewiſe, ſhe "ſaid, ſhe ſhould convince me of the vaſt reliance ſhe "had on my integrity, by communicating a ſecret in "which her honour, and conſequently her life, was "concerned. She then ſtopt, and, after a ſilence of a "few minutes, during which ſhe often wiped her eyes, "ſhe inquired of me, if I thought my mother might "ſafely be confided in. I anſwered, I would ſtake my "life on her fidelity. She then imparted to me the "great ſecret which laboured in her breaſt, and which, "I believe, was delivered with more pains than ſhe after-"wards ſuffered in child-birth. It was then contrived, "that my mother and myſelf only ſhould attend at the "time, and that Mrs Wilkins ſhould be ſent out of the

"way,

"way, as ſhe accordingly was, to the very furtheſt part "of Dorſetſhire, to inquire the character of a ſervant; "for the lady had turned away her own maid near three "months before; during all which time I officiated "about her perſon upon trial, as ſhe ſaid, though, as ſhe "afterwards declared, I was not ſufficiently handy for the "place. This, and many other ſuch things which ſhe "uſed to ſay of me, were all thrown out to prevent any "ſuſpicion which Wilkins might hereafter have, when "I was to own the child; for ſhe thought it could ne-"ver be believed ſhe would venture to hurt a young "woman with whom ſhe had intruſted ſuch a ſecret. "You may be aſſured, Sir, I was well paid for all theſe "affronts, which, together with being informed of the "occaſion of them, very well contented me. Indeed "the lady had a greater ſuſpicion of Mrs Wilkins than of "any other perſon; not that ſhe had the leaſt averſion "to the gentlewoman, but ſhe thought her incapable of "keeping a ſecret, eſpecially from you, Sir: for I have "often heard Miſs Bridget ſay, that, if Mrs Wilkins had "committed a murder, ſhe believed ſhe would acquaint "you with it. At laſt the expected day came, and Mrs "Wilkins, who had been kept a week in readineſs, and "put off from time to time, upon ſome preſence or "other, that ſhe might not return too ſoon, was diſ-"patched. Then the child was born in the preſence only "of myſelf and my mother, and was by my mother con-"veyed to her own houſe, where it was privately kept "by her till the evening of your return, when I, by the "command of Miſs Bridget, conveyed it into the bed "where you found it: and all ſuſpicions were after-"wards laid aſleep by the artful conduct of your ſiſter, "in pretending ill-will to the boy, and that any re-"gard ſhe ſhewed him was out of mere complaiſance "to you."

Mrs Waters then made many proteſtations of the truth of this ſtory, and concluded by ſaying, "Thus, Sir, you "have at laſt diſcovered your nephew; for ſo I am ſure "you will hereafter think him, and I queſtion not but "he will be both an honour and a comfort to you under "that appellation."

"I need

" I need not, Madam," ſaid Allworthy, " expreſs my " aſtoniſhment at what you have told me; and yet ſure- " ly you would not, and could not have put together " ſo many circumſtances to evidence an untruth. I " confeſs I recollect ſome paſſages relating to that " Summer, which formerly gave me a conceit, that my " ſiſter had ſome liking to him. I mentioned it to her; " for I had ſuch a regard to the young man, as well on his " own account as on his father's, that I ſhould willingly " have conſented to a match between them; but ſhe ex- " preſt the higheſt diſdain of my unkind ſuſpicion, as ſhe " called it; ſo that I never ſpoke more on the ſubject. " Good heavens! Well, the Lord diſpoſes all things.— " Yet ſure it was a moſt unjuſtifiable conduct in my ſiſ- " ter to carry this ſecret with her out of the world."— " I promiſe you, Sir," ſaid Mrs Waters, " ſhe always " profeſt a contrary intention, and frequently told me " ſhe intended one day to have communicated it to you. " She ſaid indeed, ſhe was highly rejoiced that her plot " had ſucceeded ſo well, and that you had of your own " accord taken ſuch a fancy to the child, and that it was " yet unneceſſary to make any expreſs declaration. Oh! " Sir, had that lady lived to have ſeen this poor young " man turned like a vagabond from your houſe; nay, " Sir, could ſhe have lived to hear, that you had yourſelf " employed a lawyer to proſecute him for a murder of " which he was not guilty——Forgive me, Mr Allwor- " thy, I muſt ſay it was unkind.——Indeed you have " been abuſed; he never deſerved it of you."——— " Indeed, Madam," ſaid Allworthy, " I have been " abuſed by the perſon, whoever he was, that told you " ſo." " Nay, Sir," ſaid ſhe, " I would not be miſ- " taken; I did not preſume to ſay you were guilty of " any wrong. The gentleman who came to me propo- " ſed no ſuch matter; he only ſaid, taking me for Mr " Fitzpatrick's wife, that, if Mr Jones had murdered " my huſband, I ſhould be aſſiſted with any money I " wanted, to carry on the proſecution, by a very worthy " gentleman, who, he ſaid, was well apprized what a vil- " lain I had to deal with. It was by this man I found " out who Mr Jones was; and this man, whoſe name is

"Dowling, Mr Jones tells me is your ſteward. I diſ-
"covered his name by a very odd accident, for he him-
"ſelf refuſed to tell it me; but Partridge, who met him
"at my lodgings the ſecond time he came, knew him
"formerly at Saliſbury."

"And did this Dowling," ſays Allworthy, with great aſtoniſhment in his countenance, "tell you that "I would aſſiſt in the proſecution?"——"No, Sir," anſwered ſhe, "I will not charge him wrongfully. He "ſaid I ſhould be aſſiſted, but he mentioned no name. "——Yet you muſt pardon me, Sir, if from circumſtan-
"ces I thought it could be no other."——"Indeed, "Madam," ſays Allworthy, "from circumſtances I am "too well convinced it was another.——Good Heaven! "by what wonderful means is the blackeſt and deepeſt "villainy ſometimes diſcovered!——Shall I beg you, "Madam, to ſtay till the perſon you have mentioned "comes; for I expect him every minute; nay he may "be perhaps already in the houſe."

Allworthy then ſtept to the door, in order to call a ſervant, when in came, not Mr Dowling, but the gentleman who will be ſeen in the next chapter.

CHAP. VIII.

Further continuation.

THE gentleman who now arrived was no other than Mr Weſtern. He no ſooner ſaw Allworthy, than, without conſidering in the leaſt the preſence of Mrs Waters, he began to vociferate in the following manner: "Fine doings at my houſe! A rare kettle of fiſh I have "diſcovered at laſt: Who the devil would be plagued "with a daughter?" "What's the matter, neighbour?" ſaid Allworthy. "Matter enough," anſwered Weſtern, "When I thought ſhe was juſt a coming to; nay, when "ſhe had in a manner promiſed me to do as I would ha "her, and when I was a hoped to have had nothing more "to do than to have ſent for the lawyer and finiſhed all "——what do you think I have found out? that the "little b—— hath been playing tricks with me all the "while,

" while, and carrying on a correſpondence with that " baſtard of yours. Siſter Weſtern, whom I have quar- " relled with upon her account, ſent me word o't, and " I ordered her pockets to be ſearched when ſhe was " aſleep, and here I have got un ſigned with the ſon of " a whore's own name. I have not had patience to read " half o't; for 'tis longer than one of parſon Supple's " ſermons; but I find plainly it is all about love; and " indeed what ſhould it be elſe? I have packed her up " in chamber again, and to-morrow morning down ſhe " goes into the country, unleſs ſhe conſents to be mar- " ried directly, and there ſhe ſhall live in a garret upon " bread and water all her days; and the ſooner ſuch a " b—— breaks her heart the better, though d—n her " that I believe is too tough. She will live long enough " to plague me." " Mr Weſtern," anſwered Allwor- " thy, " you know I have always proteſted againſt force, " and you yourſelf conſented that none ſhould be uſed." " Ay," cries he, " that was only upon condition that ſhe " ſhould conſent without. What the devil and Doctor " Fauſtus! ſhan't I do what I will with my own daugh- " ter, eſpecially when I deſire nothing but her own " good?" " Well, neighbour," anſwered Allworthy, " if you will give me leave, I will undertake once to argue " with the young lady." " Will you?" ſaid Weſtern: " Why that is kind now and neighbourly, and mayhap " you will do more than I have been able to do with " her; for I promiſe you ſhe hath a very good opinion " of you." " Well, Sir," ſaid Allworthy, " if you " will go home, and releaſe the young lady from her cap- " tivity, I will wait upon her within this half-hour."— " But ſuppoſe," ſaid Weſtern, " ſhe ſhould run away " with un in the mean time? For lawyer Dowling tells " me, there is no hopes of hanging the fellow at laſt; " for that the man is alive, and like to do well, and that " he thinks Jones will be out of priſon again preſently." ——" How," ſaid Allworthy, " what, did you employ " him then to inquire or to do any thing in that mat- " ter?" " Not I," anſwered Weſtern; " he mention- " it to me juſt now of his own accord."——" Juſt now!" cries Allworthy; " why, where did you ſee him then? I

" want much to ſee Mr Dowling."——" Why you may " ſee un an you will preſently at my lodgings; for there " is to be a meeting of lawyers there this morning about " a mortgage,—Icod! I ſhall loſe two or dree thou- " ſand pounds, I believe, by that honeſt gentleman, " Mr Nightingale."——" Well, Sir," ſaid Allworthy, " I will be with you within the half-hour." " And " do for once," cries the 'ſquire, " take a fool's advice, " and never think of dealing with her by gentle methods; " take my word for it, thoſe will never do. I have tried " 'um long enough. She muſt be frightened into it; " there is no other way. Tell her I'm her father, and " of the horrid ſin of diſobedience, and of the dread- " ful puniſhment of it in t'other world, and then tell " her about being locked up all her life in a garret in " this, and being kept only on bread and water." " I " will do all I can," ſaid Allworthy; " for I promiſe " you there is nothing I wiſh for more than an alliance " with this aimable creature." " Nay, the girl is well " enough for matter o' that," cries the 'ſquire; " a man " may go farther and meet with worſe meat; that I " may declare o' her, thof ſhe be my own daughter: " and if ſhe will be but obedient to me, there is narrow " a father within a hundred miles o' the place, that " loves a daughter better than I do: but I ſee you are " buſy with the lady here; ſo I will go huome and ex- " pect you, and ſo your humble ſervant."

As ſoon as Mr Weſtern was gone, Mrs Waters ſaid, " I ſee, Sir, the 'ſquire hath not the leaſt remembrance " of my face. I believe, Mr Allworthy, you would not " have known me neither. I am very conſiderably al- " tered ſince that day when you ſo kindly gave me that " advice, which I had been happy had I followed."—— " Indeed, Madam," cries Allworthy, " it gave me great " concern when I firſt heard the contrary." " Indeed, " Sir," ſays ſhe, " I was ruined by a very deep ſcheme " of villany, which, if you knew, though I pretend not " to think it would juſtify me in your opinion, it would " at leaſt mitigate my offence, and induce you to pity " me; you are not now at leiſure to hear my whole " ſtory; but this I aſſure you, I was betrayed by the moſt

" ſolemn

" ſolemn promiſes of marriage; nay, in the eye of Hea-
" ven I was married to him; for, after much reading
" on the ſubject, I am convinced that particular ceremo-
" nies are only requiſite to give a legal ſanction to mar-
" riage, and have only a worldly uſe in giving a woman
" the privileges of a wife; but that ſhe who lives con-
" ſtant to one man, after a ſolemn private affiance, what-
" ever the world may call her, hath little to charge on
" her own conſcience." " I am ſorry, Madam," ſaid Allworthy, " you made ſo ill uſe of your learning. In-
" deed it would have been well that you had been poſ-
" ſeſſed of much more, or had remained in a ſtate of ig-
" norance. And yet, Madam, I am afraid you have
" more than this ſin to anſwer for." " During his
" life," anſwered ſhe, " which was about a dozen years,
" I moſt ſolemnly aſſure you I had not. And conſider,
" Sir, on my behalf, what is in the power of a woman
" ſtript of her reputation, and left deſtitute; whether
" the good-natured world will ſuffer ſuch a ſtray-ſheep
" to return to the road of virtue, even if ſhe was never
" ſo deſirous. I proteſt then I would have choſe
" it had it been in my power; but neceſſity drove me
" into the arms of Captain Waters, with whom, though
" ſtill unmarried, I lived as a wife for many years, and
" went by his name. I parted with this gentleman at
" Worceſter, on his march againſt the rebels, and it was
" then I accidentally met with Mr Jones, who reſcued
" me from the hands of a villain. Indeed he is the wor-
" thieſt of men. No young gentleman of his age is, I
" believe, freer from vice, and few have the twentieth
" part of his virtues; nay, whatever vices he hath had,
" I am firmly perſuaded he hath now taken a reſolu-
" tion to abandon them." " I hope he hath," cries Allworthy, " and I hope he will preſerve that reſolu-
" tion. I muſt ſay I have ſtill the ſame hopes with re-
" gard to yourſelf. The world, I do agree, are apt to
" be too unmerciful on theſe occaſions; yet time and
" perſeverance will get the better of this their diſinclina-
" tion, as I may call it, to pity; for though they are
" not, like heaven, ready to receive a penitent ſinner;
" yet a continued repentance will at length obtain mercy

" even

" even with the world. This you may be aſſured of, " Mrs Waters, that whenever I find you are ſincere in " ſuch good intentions, you ſhall want no aſſiſtance in " my power to make them effectual."

Mrs Waters fell now upon her knees before him, and in a flood of tears made him many moſt paſſionate acknowledgments of his goodneſs, which, as ſhe truly ſaid, ſavoured more of the divine than human nature.

Allworthy raiſed her up, and ſpoke in the moſt tender manner, making uſe of every expreſſion which his invention could ſuggeſt to comfort her, when he was interrupted by the arrival of Mr Dowling, who, upon his firſt entrance, ſeeing Mrs Waters, ſtarted and appeared in ſome confuſion; from which he ſoon recovered himſelf as well as he could, and then ſaid, he was in the utmoſt haſte to attend council at Mr Weſtern's lodgings; but however, thought it his duty to call and acquaint him with the opinion of counſel, upon the caſe which he had before told him, which was, that the converſion of the monies in that caſe could not be queſtioned in a criminal cauſe, but that an action of trover might be brought, and if it appeared to the jury to be the monies of plantiff, that plaintiff would recover a verdict for the value.

Allworthy, without making any anſwer to this, bolted the door, and then advancing with a ſtern look to Dowling he ſaid, " Whatever be your haſte, Sir, I muſt firſt " receive an anſwer to ſome queſtions.—Do you know " this lady?"——" That lady, Sir?" anſwered Dowling with great heſitation. Allworthy then, with the moſt ſolemn voice, ſaid, " Look you, Mr Dowling, as you " value my favour, or your continuance a moment longer in my ſervice, do not heſitate nor prevaricate; but " anſwer faithfully and truly to every queſtion I aſk.— " Do you know this lady?"——" Yes, Sir," ſaid Dowling, " I have ſeen the lady." " Where, Sir?" " At " her own lodgings."——" Upon what buſineſs did you " go thither, Sir; and who ſent you?" " I went, " Sir, to inquire, Sir, about Mr Jones." " And who " ſent you to inquire about him?" " Who, Sir; why,

" Sir,

" Sir, Mr Blifil ſent me." " And what did you ſay to " the lady concerning that matter?" " Nay, Sir, it is im- " poſſible to recollect every word." " Will you pleaſe, " Madam, to aſſiſt the gentleman's memory?" " He " told me, Sir," ſaid Mrs Waters, " that if Mr Jones " had murdered my huſband, I ſhould be aſſiſted by any " money I wanted to carry on the proſecution, by a very " worthy gentleman, who was well appriſed what a vil- " lain I had to deal with." Theſe I can ſafely ſwear " were the very words he ſpoke."——" Were theſe the " words, Sir?" ſaid Allworthy, " I cannot charge my " memory exactly," cries Dowling, " but I believe I did " ſpeak to that purpoſe."——" And did Mr Blifil or- " der you to ſay ſo?" " I am ſure, Sir, I ſhould not " have gone on my own accord, nor have willingly ex- " ceeded my authority in matters of this kind. If I ſaid " ſo, I muſt have ſo underſtood Mr Blifil's inſtructions." " Look you, Mr Dowling," ſaid Allworthy, " I pro- " miſe you before this lady, that whatever you have done " in this affair by Mr Blifil's orders I will forgive, pro- " vided you tell me ſtrictly the truth: for I believe what " you ſay, that you would not have acted of your own " accord, and without authority, in this matter.——Mr " Blifil then likewiſe ſent you to examine the two fel- " lows at Alderſgate?"——" He did, Sir." " Well, " and what inſtructions did he then give you? Recol- " lect as well as you can, and tell me, as near as poſſible, " the very words he uſed."——" Why, Sir, Mr Blifil " ſent me to find out the perſons who were eye-witneſ- " ſes of this fight. He ſaid, he feared they might be " tampered with by Mr Jones, or ſome of his friends. " He ſaid, blood required blood; and that not only all " who concealed a murderer, but thoſe who omitted any " thing in their power to bring him to juſtice, were " ſharers in his guilt. He ſaid, he found you was very " deſirous of having the villain brought to juſtice, though " it was not proper you ſhould appear in it."——" He " did ſo?" ſays Allworthy.——" Yes, Sir," cries Dow- ling, " I ſhould not, I am ſure, have proceeded ſuch " lengths for the ſake of any other perſon living but " your worſhip."——" What lengths, Sir," ſaid All-

worthy,

worthy.——" Nay, Sir," cries Dowling, " I would not " have your worſhip think I would, on any account, be " guilty of ſubornation of perjury; but there are two " ways of delivering evidence. I told them therefore, " that if any offers ſhould be made them on the other " ſide, they ſhould refuſe them; and that they might be " aſſured they ſhould loſe nothing by being honeſt men, " and telling the truth. I ſaid, we were told, that Mr " Jones had aſſaulted the gentleman firſt, and that if that " was the truth, they ſhould declare it; and I did give " them ſome hints that they ſhould be no loſers."—— " I think you went lengths indeed," cries Allworthy. " Nay, Sir," anſwered Dowling, " I am ſure I did not " deſire them to tell an untruth;—nor ſhould I have " ſaid what I did, unleſs it had been to oblige you."— " You would not have thought, I believe," ſays Allworthy, " to have obliged me, had you known that this Mr " Jones was my own nephew."——" I am ſure, Sir," anſwered he, " it did not become me to take any notice " of what I thought you deſired to conceal."—" How!" cries Allworthy, " and did you know it then?"——— " Nay, Sir," anſwered Dowling, " if your worſhip bids " me ſpeak the truth, I am ſure I ſhall do it.—Indeed, " Sir, I did know it; for they were almoſt the laſt words " which Madam Blifil ever ſpoke, which ſhe mentioned " to me as I ſtood alone by her bed-ſide, when ſhe de- " livered me the letter I brought your worſhip from " her."——" What letter?" cries Allworthy.—" The " letter, Sir," anſwered Dowling, " which I brought " from Saliſbury, and which I delivered into the hands " of Mr Blifil."———" O heavens!" cries Allworthy. " Well, and what were the words? What did my ſiſter " ſay to you?" " She took me by the hand," anſwer- " ed he, " and as ſhe delivered me the letter, ſaid, " I " ſcarce know what I have written. Tell my brother, " Mr Jones is his nephew———He is my ſon. Bleſs " him," ſays ſhe, and then fell backwards, as if dying a- " way. I preſently called in the people, and ſhe " never ſpoke more to me, and died within a few mi- " nutes afterwards."———Allworthy ſtood a minute ſilent, lifting up his eyes, and then turning to Dowling,

ing, ſaid—— "How came you, Sir, not to deliver me "this meſſage?" "Your worſhip," anſwered he, muſt "remember that you was at that time ill in bed; and "being in a moſt violent hurry, as indeed I always am, "I delivered the meſſage to Mr Blifil, who told me he "would carry them both to you, which he hath ſince "told me he did, and that your worſhip, partly out of "friendſhip to Mr Jones, and partly out of regard to "your ſiſter, would never have it mentioned; and did "intend to conceal it from the world; and therefore, "Sir, if you had not mentioned it to me firſt, I am certain "ſhould never have thought it belonged to me to ſay any "thing of the matter, either to your worſhip, or any "other perſon."

We have remarked ſomewhere already, that it is poſſible for a man to convey a lie in the words of truth; this was the caſe at preſent: for Blifil had, in fact, told Dowling what he now related; but had not impoſed upon him, nor indeed had imagined he was able ſo to do. In reality, the promiſes which Blifil had made to Dowling were the motives which had induced him to ſecrecy; and as he now very plainly ſaw Blifil would not be able to keep them, he thought proper now to make this confeſſion, which the promiſes of forgiveneſs, joined to the threats, the voice, the looks of Allworthy, and the diſcoveries he had made before, extorted from him, who was beſides taken unawares, and had no time to conſider of evaſions.

Allworthy appeared well ſatisfied with this relation, and having enjoined on Dowling ſtrict ſilence as to what had paſt, conducted that gentleman himſelf to the door, leſt he ſhould ſee Blifil, who was returned to his chamber, where he exulted, in the thoughts of his laſt deceit on his uncle, and little ſuſpected what had ſince paſſed below ſtairs.

As Allworthy was returning to his room, he met Mrs Miller in the entry, who with a face all pale and full "of terror, ſaid to him, "O! Sir, I find this wicked "woman hath been with you, and you know all; yet do "not on this account abandon the poor young man. "Conſider, Sir, he was ignorant it was his own mother;

" and the diſcovery itſelf will moſt probably break his " heart without your unkindneſs."

" Madam," ſays Allworthy, " I am under ſuch an " aſtoniſhment at what I have heard, that I am really " unable to ſatisfy you; but come with me into my " room. Indeed Mrs Miller, I have made ſurprizing " diſcoveries, and you ſhall ſoon know them."

The poor woman followed him trembling; and now Allworthy going up to Mrs Waters, took her by the hand, and then turning to Mrs Miller, ſaid, " What re- " ward ſhall I beſtow on this gentlewoman for the ſer- " vices ſhe hath done me?———O! Mrs Miller, you " have a thouſand times heard me call the young man, " to whom you are ſo faithful a friend, my ſon. Little " did I then think he was indeed related to me at all.— " Your friend, Madam, is my nephew; he is the brother " of that wicked viper which I have ſo long nouriſhed " in my boſom.——She will herſelf tell you the whole " ſtory, and how the youth came to paſs for her ſon. In- " deed, Mrs Miller, I am convinced that he hath been " wronged, and that I have been abuſed; abuſed by " one whom you too juſtly ſuſpected of being a villain. " He is, in truth, the worſt of villains."

The joy which Mrs Miller now felt bereft her of the power of ſpeech, and might perhaps have deprived her of her ſenſes, if not of life, had not a friendly ſhower of tears come ſeaſonably to her relief. At length recover- ing ſo far from her tranſport as to be able to ſpeak, ſhe " cried, " And is my dear Mr Jones then your nephew " Sir? and not the ſon of this lady? and are your eyes " opened to ſee him at laſt? and ſhall I live to ſee " him as happy as he deſerves?" He certainly is my " nephew," ſays Allworthy, " and I hope all the reſt." ——" And is this dear good woman the perſon," cries ſhe, " to whom all this diſcovery is owing?"——— " She is indeed," ſays Allworthy.——" Why, then," cried Mrs Miller upon her knees, " May heaven ſhower " down its choiceſt bleſſings upon her head, and for this " one good action forgive her all her ſins, be they ever ſo " many."

Mrs

Mrs Waters then informed them, that ſhe believed Jones would very ſhortly be releaſed. for that the ſurgeon was gone in company with a nobleman, to the juſtice who committed him, in order to certify, that Mr Fitzpatrick was out of all manner of danger, and to procure the priſoner his liberty.

Allworthy ſaid, he ſhould be glad to find his nephew there at his return home, but that he was then obliged to go on ſome buſineſs of conſequence. He then called to a ſervant to fetch him a chair, and preſently left the two ladies together.

Mr Bliſil, hearing the chair ordered, came down ſtairs to attend upon his uncle, for he never was deficient in ſuch acts of duty. He aſked his uncle if he was going out? which is a civil way of aſking a man whither he is going: to which the other making no anſwer, he again deſired to know, when he would be pleaſed to return? ——Allworthy made no anſwer to this neither, till he was juſt getting into his chair, and, then turning about, he ſaid,——"Harkee, Sir, do you find out, before my "return, the letter which your mother ſent me on her "death bed." Allworthy then departed, and left Bliſil in a ſituation to be envied only by a man who is juſt going to be hanged.

CHAP. IX.

A further continuation.

ALLWORTHY took an opportunity, whilſt he was in the chair, of reading the letter from Jones to Sophia, which Weſtern delivered him; and there were ſome expreſſions in it concerning himſelf, which drew tears from his eyes. At length he arrived at Mr Weſtern's, and was introduced to Sophia.

When the firſt ceremonies were paſt, and the gentleman and lady had taken their chairs, a ſilence of ſome minutes enſued; during which the latter, who, had been prepared for the viſit by her father, ſat playing with her fan, and had every mark of confuſion both in her countenance and behaviour. At length Allworthy, who was himſelf a little diſconcerted, begun thus: "I am afraid,

"Miſs Weſtern, my family hath been the occaſion of "giving you ſome uneaſineſs, to which, I fear, I have "innocently become more inſtrumental than I intended. "Be aſſured, Madam, had I at firſt known how diſa-"greeable the propoſals had been, I ſhould not have "ſuffered you to have been ſo long perſecuted. I hope "therefore you will not think the deſign of this vi-"ſit is to trouble you with any further ſolicitations "of that kind, but entirely to relieve you from them."

"Sir," ſaid Sophia with a little modeſt heſitation, this "behaviour is moſt kind and generous, and ſuch as I "could expect only from Mr Allworthy: but as you have "been ſo kind to mention this matter, you will pardon "me for ſaying, it hath indeed given me great uneaſineſs, "and hath been the occaſion of my ſuffering much cruel "treatment from a father, who was, till that unhappy af-"fair, the tendereſt and fondeſt of all parents. I am "convinced, Sir, you are too good and generous to re-"ſent my refuſal of your nephew. Our inclinations are "not in our own power; and whatever may be his me-"rit, I cannot force them in his favour." "I aſſure "you, moſt amiable young lady," ſaid Allworthy, "I "am capable of no ſuch reſentment, had the perſon "been my own ſon, and had I entertained the higheſt "eſteem for him; for you ſay truly, Madam, we can-"not force our inclinations, much leſs can they be direc-"ted by another." "Oh! Sir," anſwered Sophia, "every word you ſpeak proves you to deſerve that good, "that great, that benevolent character, the whole world "allows you. I aſſure you, Sir, nothing leſs than the cer-"tain proſpect of future miſery could have made me reſiſt "the commands of my father." "I ſincerely believe "you, Madam," replied Allworthy, "and I heartily con-"gratulate you on your prudent foreſight, ſince by ſo "juſtifiable a reſiſtance, you have avoided miſery indeed."

"You ſpeak now, Mr Allworthy," cries ſhe, "with a "delicacy which few men are capable of feeling; but "ſurely, in my opinion, to lead our lives with one, to "whom we are indifferent, muſt be a ſtate of wretched-"neſs.—Perhaps that wretchedneſs would be even increaſ-"ed by a ſenſe of the merits of the object to whom we

"cannot

"cannot give our affection. If I had married Mr Blifil,"—"Pardon my interrupting you, Madam," anſwered Allworthy: "but I cannot bear the ſuppoſition.—Believe me "Miſs Weſtern, I rejoice from my heart, I rejoice in your "eſcape.—I have diſcovered the wretch for whom you "have ſuffered all this cruel violence from your father, to "be a villain." "How, Sir?" cries Sophia:—"You muſt "believe this ſurpriſes me."——"It hath ſurpriſed me, "Madam," anſwered Allworthy; "and ſo it will the "world.—But I have acquainted you with the real truth." "Nothing but truth," ſays Sophia, "can, I am con-"vinced, come from the lips of Mr Allworthy.——Yet "Sir, ſuch ſudden, ſuch unexpected news——Diſcovered "you ſay——May villany be ever ſo." "You will ſoon "enough hear the ſtory," cries Allworthy;—"at pre-"ſent, let us not mention ſo deteſted a name.——I have "another matter to purpoſe——O! Miſs Weſtern, I "know your vaſt worth, nor can I eaſily part with "the ambition of being allied to it.——I have "a near relation, Madam, a young man whoſe character "is, I am convinced, the very oppoſite to that of this "wretch, and whoſe fortune I will make equal to what "his was to have been.—Could I, Madam, hope you "would admit a viſit from him?" Sophia, after a mi-nute's ſilence, anſwered, "I will deal with the utmoſt "ſincerity with Mr Allworthy. His character and the "obligation I have juſt received from him, demand it. "I have determined at preſent to liſten to no ſuch pro-"poſals from any perſon. My only deſire is to be reſ-"tored to the affection of my father, and to be again the "miſtreſs of his family. This, Sir, I hope to owe to "your good offices. Let me beſeech you, let me con-"jure you, by all the goodneſs which I, and all who know "you, have experienced, do not the very moment, when "you have releaſed me from one perſecution, do not "engage me in another, as miſerable and as fruitleſs."—"Indeed, Miſs Weſtern," replied Allworthy, "I am "capable of no ſuch conduct; and, if this be your reſo-"lution, he muſt ſubmit to the diſappointment, whatever "torments he may ſuffer under it." "I muſt ſmile "now, Mr Allworthy," anſwered Sophia, "when you

"mention

" mention the torments of a man whom I do not know,
" and who can conſequently have ſo little acquaintance
" with me." " Pardon me, my dear young lady," cries Allworthy; " I begin now to be afraid he hath had too
" much acquaintance for the repoſe of his future days, ſince,
" if ever man was capable of a ſincere, violent, and noble
" paſſion, ſuch, I am convinced, is my unhappy nephew's
" for Miſs Weſtern." " A nephew of yours! Mr All-
" worthy," anſwered Sophia. " It is ſurely ſtrange, I
" never heard of him before." " Indeed! Madam," cries Allworthy, " it is only the circumſtance of his being
" my nephew, to which you are a ſtranger, and which,
" till this day, was a ſecret to me.——Mr Jones, who
" has long loved you, he! he is my nephew." " Mr
" Jones your nephew, Sir?" cries Sophia: Can it be
" poſſible!"—" He is indeed, Madam," anſwered Allworthy; " he is my own ſiſter's ſon——As ſuch I ſhall
" always own him; nor am I aſhamed of owning him.
" I am much more aſhamed of my paſt behaviour to
" him; but I was as ignorant of his merit as of his birth.
" Indeed, Miſs Weſtern, I have uſed him cruelly——
" indeed I have."——Here the good man wiped his eyes,
" and after a ſhort pauſe proceeded——" I never ſhall
" be able to reward him without your aſſiſtance.——Be-
" lieve me, moſt aimable young lady, I muſt have a great
" eſteem of that offering which I make to your worth.
" I know he hath been guilty of faults, but there is
" great goodneſs of heart at the bottom. Believe me,
" Madam, there is."——Here he ſtopped, ſeeming to expect an anſwer, which he preſently received from Sophia, after ſhe had a little recovered herſelf from the hurry of ſpirits, into which ſo ſtrange and ſudden information had thrown her: " I ſincerely wiſh you joy, Sir,
" of a diſcovery in which you ſeem to have ſuch ſatis-
" faction. I doubt not but you will have all the com-
" fort you can promiſe yourſelf from it.——The young
" gentleman hath certainly a thouſand good qualities,
" which makes it impoſſible he ſhould not behave well
" to ſuch an uncle."——" I hope, Madam," ſaid All-
" worthy, " he hath thoſe good qualities which muſt
" make him a good huſband.—He muſt, I am ſure, be

" of

" of all men moſt abandoned, if a lady of your merit " ſhould condeſcend.——" You muſt pardon me, Mr " Allworthy," anſwered Sophia, " I cannot liſten to a " propoſal of this kind. Mr Jones, I am convinced, " hath much merit; but I ſhall never receive Mr Jones " as one who is to be my huſband.—Upon my honour I " never will."—" Pardon me, Madam," cries Allworthy, " if I am a little ſurpriſed, after what I have heard " from Mr Weſtern.——I hope the unhappy young " man hath done nothing to forfeit your good opinion, " if he had ever the honour to enjoy it——Perhaps he " may have been miſrepreſented to you, as he was to " me. The ſame villany may have injured him every " where.—He is no murderer, I aſſure you, as he hath " been called."——" Mr Allworthy," anſwered Sophia, " I have told you my reſolution. I wonder not at what " my father hath told; but whatever his apprehenſions " or fears have been, if I know my heart, I have given " no occaſion for them; ſince it hath always been a fix- " ed principle with me, never to have married without " his conſent. This is, I think, the duty of a child to a " parent; and this, I hope, nothing could ever have pre- " vailed with me to ſwerve from. I do not indeed con- " ceive, that the authority of any parent can oblige us to " marry, in direct oppoſition to our inclinations. To " avoid a force of this kind, which I had reaſon to ſuſ- " pect, I left my father's houſe, and ſought protection " elſewhere. This is the truth of my ſtory; and if the " world, or my father, carry my intentions any farther, " my own conſcience will acquit me." " I hear you, " Miſs Weſtern," cries Allworthy, " with admiration. " I admire the juſtneſs of your ſentiments; but ſurely " there is more in this. I am cautious of offending you, " young lady; but am I to look on all which I have " hitherto heard or ſeen as a dream only? And have " you ſuffered ſo much cruelty from your father on the " account of a man to whom you have been always ab- " ſolutely indifferent?" " I beg, Mr Allworthy," an- ſwered Sophia, " you will not inſiſt on my reaſons;—Yes, " I have ſuffered indeed: I will not, Mr Allworthy, " conceal—I will be very ſincere with you—I own I had

" a great

" a great opinion of Mr Jones—I believe—I know I " have ſuffered for my opinion—I have been cruelly treat- " ed by my aunt, as well as by my father; but that is now " paſt—I beg I may not be farther preſſed; for what- " ever hath been, my reſolution is now fixed. Your " nephew, Sir, hath many virtues—he hath great virtues, " Mr Allworthy. I queſtion not but he will do you ho- " nour in the world, and make you happy."——" I " wiſh I could make him ſo, Madam," replied Allwor- thy; " but that I am convinced is only in your power. " It is that conviction which hath made me ſo earneſt a " ſolicitor in his favour." " You are deceived, indeed " Sir, you are deceived," ſaid Sophia.——" I hope not " by him—It is ſufficient to have deceived me. Mr All- " worthy, I muſt inſiſt on being preſt no farther on this " ſubject.—I ſhould be ſorry——Nay, I will not injure " him in your favour. I wiſh Mr Jones very well; I " ſincerely wiſh him well; and I repeat it again to you, " whatever demerit he may have to me, I am certain he " hath many good qualities. I do not diſown my former " thoughts, but nothing can ever recal them. At preſent " there is not a man upon earth whom I would more re- " ſolutely reject than Mr Jones; nor would the addreſ- " ſes of Mr Blifil himſelf be leſs agreeable to me."

Weſtern had been long impatient for the event of this conference, and was juſt now arrived at the door to liſten; when having heard the laſt ſentiments of his daughter's heart he loſt all temper, and burſting the door open in a " rage, cried out——" It is a lye, It is a d—n'd lie. " It is all owing to that d—n'd raſcal Jones; and if ſhe " could get at un, ſhe'd ha un any hour of the day."— Here Allworthy interpoſed, and addreſſing himſelf to the 'ſquire with ſome anger in his look, he ſaid, " Mr Weſ- " tern, you have not kept your word with me. You " promiſed to abſtain from all violence."——" Why ſo " I did," cries Weſtern, " as long as it was poſſible; but " to hear a wench telling ſuch confounded lies.—Zounds! " doth ſhe think if ſhe can make vools of other volk, " ſhe can make one of me?——No, no, I know her bet- " ter than thee doſt." " I am ſorry to tell you, Sir," anſwered Allworthy, " it doth not appear by your beha-

" viour

" viour to this young lady, that you know her at all. I " aſk pardon for what I ſay; but I think our intimacy, " your own deſires, and the occaſion juſtify me. She " is your daughter, Mr Weſtern, and I think ſhe doth " honour to your name. If I was capable of envy, I " ſhould ſooner envy you on this account than any " other man whatever."——" Od-rabbit it," cries the 'ſquire, " I wiſh ſhe was thine with all my heart—— " wouldſt ſoon be glad to be rid of the trouble o'her." " Indeed, my good friend," anſwered Allworthy, " you " yourſelf are the cauſe of all the trouble you complain " of. Place that confidence in the young lady which " ſhe ſo well deſerves, and I am certain you will be the " happieſt father on earth."——" I confidence in " her!" cries the 'ſquire,——" 'Sblood! what confi- " dence can I place in her, when ſhe won't do as I wou'd " ha her? Let her gi but her conſent to marry as I " would ha her, and I'll place as much confidence in " her as wouldſt ha me."—" You have no right, neigh- " bour," anſwered Allworthy, " to inſiſt on any ſuch " conſent. A negative voice your daughter allows you, " and God and nature have thought proper to allow you " no more." " A negative voice!" cries the 'ſquire— " Ay! ay! I'll ſhew you what a negative voice I ha—— " Go along, go into your chamber; go, you ſtubborn" — " Indeed, Mr Weſtern," ſaid Allworthy,——" Indeed " you uſe her cruelly—I cannot bear to ſee this—You " ſhall, you muſt behave to her in a kinder manner.— " She deſerves the beſt of treatment." " Yes, yes," ſaid the 'ſquire, " I know what ſhe deſerves, now ſhe's " gone, I'll ſhew you what ſhe deſerves.—See here, ſee " here is a letter from my couſin, my Lady Bellaſton, in " which ſhe is ſo kind to gi me to underſtand, that the " fellow is got out of priſon again; and here ſhe adviſes " me to take all the care I can o' the wench. Odzook- " ers! neighbour Allworthy, you don't know what it is " to govern a daughter.'

The 'ſquire ended his ſpeech with ſome compliments to his own ſagacity; and then Allworthy, after a formal preface, acquainted him with the whole diſcovery which he had made concerning Jones, with his anger to Blifil,

and with every particular which had been diſcloſed to the reader in the preceding chapters.

Men over violent in their diſpoſitions, are, for the moſt part, as changeable in them. No ſooner then was Weſtern informed of Mr Allworthy's intention to make Jones his heir, than he joined heartily with the uncle in every commendation of the nephew, and became as eager for her marriage with Jones as he had before been to couple her to Blifil.

Here Mr Allworthy was again forced to interpoſe, and to relate what had paſſed between him and Sophia, at which he teſtified great ſurprize.

The 'ſquire was ſilent a moment, and looked wild with aſtoniſhment at this account—At laſt he cried out "Why, what can be the meaning of this, neighbour All-"worthy! Vond o'un ſhe was, that I'll be ſworn to.—"Odzookers! I have hit o't. As ſure as a gun I have "hit o' the very right o't. It's all along o' ziſter. The "girl hath got a hankering after the ſon of a whore of a "Lord. I vound 'em together at my couſin, my Lady "Bellaſton's. He hath turned the head o' her, that's "certain——but d—n me if he ſhall ha her——I'll ha "no lords nor courtiers in my vamily."

Allworthy now made a long ſpeech, in which he repeated his reſolutions to avoid all violent meaſures, and very earneſtly recommended gentle methods to Mr Weſtern, as thoſe by which he might be aſſured of ſucceeding beſt with his daughter. He then took his leave, and returned back to Mrs Miller, but was forced to comply with the earneſt entreaties of the 'ſquire, in promiſing to bring Mr Jones to viſit him that afternoon, that he might, as he ſaid, "Make all matters up with "the young gentleman." At Mr Allworthy's depar-"ture, Weſtern promiſed to follow his advice in his behaviour to Sophia, ſaying, "I don't know how 'tis, but "d—n me, Allworthy, if you don't make me always "do juſt as you pleaſe; and yet I have as good an eſtate as you, and am in the commiſſion of the peace as well as yourſelf.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

Wherein the Hiſtory begins to draw towards a concluſion.

WHEN Allworthy returned to his lodgings, he heard Mr Jones was juſt arrived before him. He hurried therefore inſtantly into an empty chamber, where he ordered Mr Jones to be brought to him alone.

It is impoſſible to conceive a more tender or moving ſcene, than the meeting between the uncle and nephew, (for Mrs Waters, as the reader may well ſuppoſe, had at her laſt viſit diſcovered to him the ſecret of his birth.) The firſt agonies of joy which were felt on both ſides are indeed beyond my power to deſcribe: I ſhall not therefore attempt it. After Allworthy had raiſed Jones from his feet, where he had proſtrated himſelf, and received him into his arms, "O my child," he cried, "how have I been to blame, how have I injured you! "What amends can I ever make you for thoſe unkind, "thoſe unjuſt ſuſpicions which I have entertained, "and for all the ſufferings they have occaſioned to "you?" "Am I not now made amends?" cries Jones: "Would not my ſufferings, if they had been "ten times greater, have been now richly repaid? "O my dear uncle! this goodneſs, this tenderneſs over-"powers, unmans, deſtroys me. I cannot bear the "tranſports which flow ſo faſt upon me. To be again "reſtored to your preſence, to your favour; to be once "more thus kindly received by my great, my noble, my "generous benefactor."——"Indeed child," cries Allworthy, "I have uſed you cruelly."——He then explained to him all the treachery of Blifil, and again repeated expreſſions of the utmoſt concern, for having been induced by that treachery to uſe him ſo ill. "O talk "not ſo," anſwered Jones; "indeed, Sir, you have "uſed me nobly. The wiſeſt man might be deceived "as you were, and under ſuch a deception, the beſt "muſt have acted juſt as you did. Your goodneſs diſ-

" played itſelf in the midſt of your anger, juſt as it then
" ſeemed. I owe every thing to that goodneſs of which
" I have been moſt unworthy. Do not put me on ſelf-
" accuſation, by carrying your generous ſentiments too
" far. Alas, Sir, I have not been puniſhed more than
" I have deſerved; and it ſhall be the whole buſineſs of
" my future life to deſerve that happineſs you now beſ-
" tow on me; for, believe me, my dear uncle, my puniſh-
" ment hath not been thrown away upon me: though I
" have been a great, I am not a hardened ſinner; I thank
" heaven I have had time to reflect on my paſt life,
" where, though I cannot charge myſelf with any groſs
" villany, yet I can diſcern follies and vices more than
" enough to repent and to be aſhamed of; follies which
" have been attended with dreadful conſequences to my-
" ſelf, and have brought me to the brink of deſtruction."
" I am rejoiced, my dear child," anſwered Allworthy,
" to hear you talk thus ſenſibly; for as I am convinced
" hypocriſy (good heaven, how have I been impoſed on
" by it in others!) was never among your faults; ſo I
" can readily believe all you ſay. You now ſee, Tom,
" to what dangers imprudence alone may ſubject virtue
" (for virtue, I am now convinced, you love in a great
" degree.) Prudence is indeed the duty which we owe
" to ourſelves; and if we will be ſo much our own ene-
" mies as to neglect it, we are not to wonder if the
" world is deficient in diſcharging their duty to us; for
" when a man lays the foundation of his own ruin,
" others will, I am afraid, be too apt to build upon it.
" You ſay however you have ſeen your errors, and will
" reform them. I firmly believe you, my dear child; and
" therefore, from this moment, you ſhall never more be
" reminded of them by me. Remember them only
" yourſelf ſo far as for the future to teach you the bet-
" ter to avoid them; but ſtill remember for your com-
" fort, that there is this great difference between thoſe
" faults which candor may conſtrue into imprudence,
" and thoſe which can be deduced from villany only. The
" former, perhaps, are even more apt to ſubject a man
" to ruin; but if he reform, his character will, at length
" be totally retrieved; the world, though not immediate-

ly,

" ly, will in time be reconciled to him, and he may re-
" flect, not without ſome mixture of pleaſure, on the
" dangers he hath eſcaped; but villany, my boy, when
" once diſcovered, is irretrievable; the ſtains which this
" leaves behind, no time will waſh away. The cenſures
" of mankind will purſue the wretch, their ſcorn will
" abaſh him in public; and if ſhame drives him into re-
" tirement, he will go to it with all thoſe terrors with
" which a weary child, who is afraid of hobgoblins, re-
" treats from company to go to bed alone. Here his
" murdered conſcience will haunt him. Repoſe, like a
" a falſe friend, will fly from him. Where-ever he
" turns his eyes, horror preſents itſelf; if he looks back-
" wards, unavailable repentance treads on his heels; if
" forward, incurable deſpair ſtares him in the face; till,
" like a condemned priſoner confined in a dungeon, he
" deteſts his preſent condition, and yet dreads the con-
" ſequence of that hour which is to relieve him from it.
" Comfort yourſelf, I ſay, my child, that this is not your
" caſe; and rejoice, with thankfulneſs to him who hath
" ſuffered you to ſee your errors, before they have
" brought on you that deſtruction, to which a perſiſtance
" in even thoſe errors muſt have led you. You have
" deſerted them; and the proſpect now before you is
" ſuch, that happineſs ſeems in your own power."—At
theſe words Jones fetched a deep ſigh; upon which,
when Allworthy remonſtrated, he ſaid, " Sir, I will con-
" ceal nothing from you; I fear there is one conſe-
" quence of my vices I ſhall never be able to retrieve.
" O my dear uncle, I have loſt a treaſure."——" You
" need ſay no more," anſwered Allworthy; " I will be
" explicit with you; I know what you lament; I have
" ſeen the young lady, and have diſcourſed with her
" concerning you. This I muſt inſiſt on, as an earneſt
" of your ſincerity in all you have ſaid, and of the ſted-
" faſtneſs of your reſolution, that you obey me in one
" inſtance:—to abide entirely by the determination of
" the young lady, whether it ſhall be in your favour or
" no. She hath already ſuffered enough from ſolicita-
" tions which I hate to think of; ſhe ſhall owe no fur-
" ther conſtraint to my family: I know her father will

be

" be as ready to torment her now on your account, as " he hath formerly been on another's; but I am de- " termined ſhe ſhall ſuffer no more confinement, no " more violence, no more uneaſy hours."——" O " my dear uncle," anſwered Jones, " lay, I beſeech " you, ſome command on me, in which I ſhall have " ſome merit in obedience. Believe me, Sir, the " only inſtance in which I could diſobey you, would be " to give an uneaſy moment to my Sophia. No, Sir, if " I am ſo miſerable to have incurred her diſpleaſure be- " yond all hope of forgiveneſs, that alone, with the " dreadful reflection of cauſing her miſery, will be ſuffi- " cient to overpower me. To call Sophia mine is the " greateſt, and now the only additional bleſſing which " heaven can beſtow, but it is a bleſſing which I muſt " owe to her alone " " I will not flatter you, child;" cries Allworthy; " I fear your caſe is deſperate: I never " ſaw ſtronger marks of an unalterable reſolution in any " perſon, than appeared in her vehement declarations " againſt receiving your addreſſes; for which, perhaps, " you can account better than myſelf."—" Oh, Sir! I " can account too well," anſwered Jones; " I have ſin- " ned againſt her beyond all hope of pardon; and guil- " ty as I am, my guilt unfortunately appears to her in " ten times blacker than the real colours. O, my dear " uncle, I find my follies are irretrievable, and all your " goodneſs cannot ſave me from perdition."

A ſervant now acquainted them that Mr Weſtern was below ſtairs, for his eagerneſs to ſee Jones could not wait till the afternoon; upon which Jones, whoſe eyes were full of tears, begged his uncle to entertain Weſtern a few minutes, till he a little recovered himſelf: to which the good man conſented, and having ordered Mr Weſtern to be ſhewn into a parlour, went down to him.

Mrs Miller no ſooner heard that Jones was alone, (for ſhe had not yet ſeen him ſince his releaſe from priſon), than ſhe came eagerly into the room, and, advancing towards Jones, wiſhed him heartily joy of his new-found uncle, and his happy reconciliation, adding, " I " wiſh I could give you joy on another account, my dear " child, but any thing ſo inexorable I never ſaw."

Jones

Jones, with ſome appearance of ſurprize, aſked her what ſhe meant. "Why then," ſays ſhe, "I have been "with your young lady, and have explained all matters "to her as they were told me by my ſon Nightingale. "She can have no longer any doubt about the letter; of "that I am certain; for I told her my ſon Nightingale "was ready to take his oath, if ſhe pleaſed, that it was "all his own invention, and the letter of his inditing. I "told her the very reaſon of ſending the letter ought "to recommend you to her the more, as it was all upon "her account, and a plain proof, that you was reſolved "to quit your profligacy for the future; that you had "never been guilty of a ſingle inſtance of infidelity to "her ſince your ſeeing her in town: I am afraid I went "too far there; but Heaven forgive me; I hope your "future behaviour will be my juſtification. I am ſure "I have ſaid all I can; but all to no purpoſe. She re-"mains inflexible. She ſays, ſhe had forgiven many "faults on account of youth, but expreſſed ſuch deteſta-"tion of the character of a libertine, that ſhe abſolutely "ſilenced me. I often attempted to excuſe you, but "the juſtneſs of her accuſation flew in my face. Upon "my honour, ſhe is a lovely woman, and one of the "ſweeteſt and moſt ſenſible creatures I ever ſaw. I "could have almoſt kiſſed her for one expreſſion ſhe "made uſe of. It was a ſentiment worthy of Seneca, "or of a biſhop; I once fancied, Madam," ſaid ſhe, "I "had diſcovered great goodneſs of heart in Mr Jones; "and for that I own I had a ſincere eſteem; but an "entire profligacy of manners will corrupt the beſt heart "in the world; and all which a good-natured libertine "can expect is, that we ſhould mix ſome grains of pity "with our contempt and abhorrence." She is an angelic "creature, that's the truth on't."—"O Mrs Miller," anſwered Jones, "can I bear to think I have loſt ſuch an "angel!" "Loſt! no," cries Mrs Miller; "I hope "you have not loſt her yet. Reſolve to leave ſuch vici-"ous courſes, and you may yet have hopes: nay, if ſhe "ſhould remain inexorable, there is another young lady, "a ſweet pretty young lady, and a ſwinging fortune, "who is abſolutely dying for love of you. I heard of

"it

" it this very morning, and I told it to Miſs Weſtern; " nay, I went a little beyond the truth again; for I " told her you had refuſed her; but indeed I knew you " would refuſe her.——And here I muſt give you a lit- " tle comfort: when I mentioned the young lady's name, " who is no other than the pretty widow Hunt, I " thought ſhe turned pale; but whenI ſaid you had re- " fuſed her, I will be ſworn her face was all over ſcarlet " in an inſtant; and theſe were her very words "I will " not deny but that I believe he has ſome affection for " me."

Here the converſation was interrupted by the arrival of Weſtern, who could no longer be kept out of the room even by the authority of Allworthy himſelf, tho' this, as we have often ſeen, had a wonderful power over him.

Weſtern immediately went up to Jones, crying out, " My old friend, Tom, I am glad to ſee thee with all " my heart. All paſt muſt be forgotten. I could not " intend any affront to thee, becauſe, as Allworthy here " knows, nay doſt know it thyſelf, I took thee for ano- " ther perſon; and where a body means no harm, what " ſignifies a haſty word or two? One Chriſtian muſt " forget and forgive another." " I hope Sir," ſaid Jones, " I ſhall never forget the many obligations I have " had to you; but as for any offence towards me, I de- " clare I am an utter ſtranger."——" A't," ſays Weſ- tern; " then give me thy fiſt; a't as hearty an honeſt " cock as any in the kingdom. Come along with me; " I'll carry thee to thy miſtreſs this moment." Here Allworthy interpoſed; and the 'ſquire, being unable to prevail either with the uncle or nephew, was, after ſome litigation, obliged to conſent to delay introducing Jones to Sophia till the afternoon; at which time Allworthy, as well in compaſſion to Jones, as in compliance with the eager deſires of Weſtern, was prevailed upon to promiſe to attend at the tea-table.

The converſation which now enſued was pleaſant enough, and with which, had it happened earlier in our hiſtory, we would have entertained our reader; but as we have now leiſure only to attend to what is very mate- rial,

trial, it ſhall ſuffice to ſay, that matters being entirely adjuſted as to the afternoon viſit, Mr Weſtern again returned home.

CHAP. XI.

The Hiſtory draws nearer to a concluſion.

WHEN Mr Weſtern was departed, Jones began to inform Mr Allworthy and Mrs Miller that his liberty had been procured by two noble lords, who, together with two ſurgeons and a friend of Mr Nightingale's, had attended the magiſtrate by whom he had been committed, and by whom, on the ſurgeon's oath, that the wounded perſon was out of all manner of danger from his wound, he was diſcharged.

One only of theſe lords, he ſaid, he had ever ſeen before, and that no more than once; but the other had greatly ſurpriſed him, by aſking his pardon for an offence he had been guilty of towards him, occaſioned, he ſaid, entirely by his ignorance of who he was.

Now the reality of the caſe, with which Jones was not acquainted till afterwards, was this. The lieutenant whom Lord Fellamar had employed, according to the advice of Lady Bellaſton, to preſs Jones, as a vagabond, into the ſea-ſervice, when he came to report to his lordſhip the event which we have before ſeen, ſpoke very favourably of the behaviour of Mr Jones on all accounts, and ſtrongly aſſured that lord, that he muſt have miſtaken the perſon, for that Jones was certainly a gentleman; inſomuch that his lordſhip, who was ſtrictly a man of honour, and would by no means have been guilty of an action which the world in general would have condemned, began to be much concerned for the advice which he had taken.

Within a day or two after this, Lord Fellamar happened to dine with the Iriſh peer, who in a converſation upon the duel, acquainted his company with the character of Fitzpatrick, to which indeed he did not do ſtrict juſtice, eſpecially in what related to his lady. He ſaid, ſhe was the moſt innocent, and moſt injured woman

alive, and that from compaſſion alone he had undertaken her cauſe. He then declared an intention of going the next morning to Fitzpatrick's lodgings, in order to prevail with him, if poſſible, to conſent to a ſeparation from his wife, who, the peer ſaid, was in apprehenſions for her life, if ſhe ſhould ever return to be under the power of her huſband. Lord Fellamar agreed to go with him, that he might ſatisfy himſelf more concerning Jones, and the circumſtances of the duel; for he was by no means eaſy concerning the part he had acted. The moment his lordſhip gave a hint of his readineſs to aſſiſt in the delivery of the lady, it was eagerly embraced by the other nobleman, who depended much on the authority of Lord Fellamar, as he thought it would greatly contribute to awe Fitzpatrick into a compliance; and perhaps he was in the right: for the poor Iriſhman no ſooner ſaw theſe noble peers had undertaken the cauſe of his wife, than he ſubmitted, and articles of ſeparation were ſoon drawn up, and ſigned between the parties.

Fitzpatrick who had been ſo well ſatisfied by Mrs Waters concerning the innocency of his wife with Jones at Upton, or perhaps from ſome other reaſons, was now become ſo indifferent to that matter, that he ſpoke highly in favour of Jones to Lord Fellamar, took all the blame upon himſelf, and ſaid the other had behaved very much like a gentleman, and a man of honour; and upon that lord's further inquiry concerning Mr Jones, Fitzpatrick told him he was nephew to a gentleman of very great faſhion and fortune, which was the account he had juſt received from Mrs Waters, after her interview with Dowling.

Lord Fellamar now thought it behoved him to do every thing in his power to make ſatisfaction to a gentleman whom he had ſo groſsly injured, and without any conſideration of rivalſhip (for he had now given over all thoughts of Sophia), determined to procure Mr Jones's liberty, being ſatisfied as well from Fitzpatrick as his ſurgeon, that the wound was not mortal. He therefore prevailed with the Iriſh peer to accompany him to the place where Jones was confined, to whom he behaved as we have already related.

When

When Allworthy returned to his lodgings, he immediately carried Jones into his room, and then acquainted him with the whole matter, as well what he had heard from Mrs Waters, as what he had diſcovered from Mr Dowling.

Jones expreſſed great aſtoniſhment, and no leſs concern at this account; but without making any comment or obſervation upon it. And now a meſſage was brought from Mr Blifil, deſiring to know if his uncle was at leiſure, that he might wait upon him. Allworthy ſtarted and turned pale, and then in a more paſſionate tone than I believe he had ever uſed before, bid the ſervant tell Blifil he knew him not. "Conſider, dear Sir,"——cries Jones, in a trembling voice.——"I have conſidered," anſwered Allworthy, and you yourſelf ſhall carry my "meſſage to the villain.———No one can carry him "the ſentence of his own ruin ſo properly as the man "whoſe ruin he hath ſo villanouſly contrived."—"Pardon me, dear Sir," ſaid Jones; "a moment's reflection "will, I am ſure, convince you of the contrary. What "might perhaps be but juſtice from another tongue, "would from mine be inſult: and to whom?—My own "brother, and your nephew.—Nor did he uſe me ſo barbarouſly.—Indeed that would have been more inexcuſable than any thing he hath done. Fortune may "tempt men of no very bad diſpoſitions to injuſtice; but "inſults proceed only from black and rancorous minds, "and have no temptations to excuſe them.—Let me beſeech you, Sir, to do nothing by him in the preſent "height of your anger. Conſider, my dear uncle, I was "not myſelf condemned unheard." Allworthy ſtood ſilent a moment, and then embracing Jones, he ſaid, with tears guſhing from his eyes, "O my child! to what "goodneſs have I been ſo long blind!"

Mrs Miller entering the room at that moment, after a gentle rap, which was not perceived, and ſeeing Jones in the arms of his uncle, the poor woman, in an agony of joy, fell upon her knees, and burſt forth into the moſt ecſtatic thankſgivings to heaven for what had happened. Then running to Jones, ſhe embraced him eagerly, crying "My deareſt friend, I wiſh you joy a thouſand and a thou-

" ſand times of this bleſt day;" and next, Mr Allworthy himſelf received the ſame congratulations. To which he anſwered, " Indeed, indeed, Mrs Miller, I am beyond " expreſſion happy." Some few more raptures having paſſed on all ſides, Mrs Miller deſired them both to walk down to dinner in the parlour, where ſhe ſaid there were a very happy ſet of people aſſembled; being indeed no other than Mr Nightingale and his bride, and his couſin Harris with her bridegroom.

Allworthy excuſed himſelf from dining with the company, ſaying he had ordered ſome little thing for him and his nephew in his own apartment; for that they had much private buſineſs to diſcourſe of, but would not reſiſt promiſing the good woman, that both he and Jones would make part of her ſociety at ſupper.

Mrs Miller then aſked what was to be done with Bliſil; " for indeed," ſays ſhe, " I cannot be eaſy while " ſuch a villain is in my houſe."—Allworthy anſwered, " He was as uneaſy as herſelf on the ſame account."—" O!" cries ſhe, " if that be the caſe, leave the matter " to me; I'll ſoon ſhew him the outſide of the doors I " warrant you. Here are two or three luſty fellows be- " low ſtairs." " There will be no need of any vio- " lence," cries Allworthy; " if you carry him a meſſage " from me, he will, I am convinced, depart of his own " accord." " Will he?" ſaid Mrs Miller, " I never did " any thing in my life with a better will." Here Jones interfered, and ſaid, " He had conſidered the matter " better, and would, if Mr Allworthy pleaſed, be himſelf " the meſſenger." " I know," ſays he, " already " enough of your pleaſure, Sir, and I beg leave to ac- " quaint him with it by my own words. Let me " beſeech you, Sir," added he, " to reflect on the " dreadful conſequences of driving him to violent " and ſudden deſpair. How unfit, alas! is this poor " man to die in his preſent ſituation." This ſuggeſtion had not the leaſt effect on Mrs Miller. She left the room, crying, " You are too good, Mr Jones, infinitely " too good to live in this world." But it made a deeper impreſſion on Allworthy. " My good child," ſaid he, " I am equally aſtoniſhed at the goodneſs of your " heart, and the quickneſs of your underſtanding. Hea-

" ven

" ven indeed forbid that this wretch ſhould be depriv-
" ed of any means or time for repentance. That would
" be a ſhocking conſideration indeed. Go to him,
" therefore, and uſe your own diſcretion; yet do not
" flatter him with any hopes of my forgiveneſs; for I
" ſhall never forgive villany farther than my religion
" obliges me, and that extends not either to our bounty
" or our converſation."

Jones went up to Blifil's room, whom he found in a ſituation which moved his pity, though it would have raiſed a leſs amiable paſſion in many beholders.—He caſt himſelf on his bed, where he lay abandoning himſelf to deſpair, and drowned in tears; not in ſuch tears as flow from contrition, and waſh away guilt from minds which have been ſeduced or ſurprized into it unawares, againſt the bent of their natural diſpoſitions, as will ſometimes happen from human frailty, even to the good; no, theſe tears were ſuch as the frighted thief ſheds in his cart, and are indeed the effects of that concern which the moſt ſavage natures are ſeldom deficient in feeling for themſelves.

It would be unpleaſant and tedious to paint this ſcene in full length. Let it ſuffice to ſay, that the behaviour of Jones was kind to exceſs. He omitted nothing which his invention could ſupply, to raiſe and comfort the drooping ſpirits of Blifil, before he communicated to him the reſolution of his uncle, that he muſt quit the houſe that evening. He offered to furniſh him with any money he wanted, aſſured him of his hearty forgiveneſs of all he had done againſt him, that he would endeavour to live with him hereafter as a brother, and would leave nothing unattempted to effectuate a reconciliation with his uncle.

Blifil was at firſt ſullen and ſilent, balancing in his mind whether he ſhould yet deny all: but finding at laſt the evidence too ſtrong againſt him, he betook himſelf at laſt to confeſſion. He then aſked pardon of his brother in the moſt vehement manner, proſtrated himſelf on the ground, and kiſſed his feet: in ſhort, he was now as remarkably mean, as he had been before remarkably wicked.

Jones

Jones could not ſo far check his diſdain, but that it a little diſcovered itſelf in his countenance at this extreme ſervility. He raiſed his brother the moment he could from the ground, and adviſed him to bear his afflictions more like a man; repeating at the ſame time his promiſes, that he would do all in his power to leſſen them: for which Bliſil making many profeſſions of his unworthineſs, poured forth a profuſion of thanks: and then having declared he would immediately depart to another lodging, Jones returned to his uncle.

Among other matters, Allworthy now acquainted Jones with the diſcovery which he made concerning the 500l. Bank-notes, "I have," ſaid he, "already conſulted a lawyer, who tells me, to my great aſtoniſhment, "that there is no puniſhment for a fraud of this kind. "Indeed, when I conſider the black ingratitude of this "fellow towards you, I think a highwayman, compared "to him, is an innocent perſon."

"Good heaven!" ſays Jones, "is it poſſible?—— "I am ſhocked beyond meaſure at this news. I thought "there was not an honeſter fellow in the world.——— "The temptation of ſuch a ſum was too great for him "to withſtand; for ſmaller matters have come ſafe to "me through his hand. Indeed, my dear uncle, you "muſt ſuffer me to call it weakneſs rather than ingra- "titude; for I am convinced the poor fellow loves me, "and hath done me ſome kindneſſes, which I can never "forget; nay, I believe he hath repented of this very "act: for it is not above a day or two ago, when my "affairs ſeemed in the moſt deſperate ſituation, that he vi- "ſited me in my confinement. and offered me any "money I wanted. Conſider, Sir, what a temptation "to a man who hath taſted ſuch bitter diſtreſs, it muſt "be to have a ſum in his poſſeſſion, which muſt put him "and his family beyond any future poſſibility of ſuffer- "ing the like."

"Child," cries Allworthy, "you carry this forgiving "temper too far. Such miſtaken mercy is not only "weakneſs, but borders on injuſtice, and is very pernici- "ous to ſociety, as it encourages vice. The diſhoneſty "of this fellow I might perhaps have pardoned, but never

" never his ingratitude. And give me leave to ſay, " when we ſuffer any temptation to atone for diſhoneſ- " ty itſelf, we are as candid and merciful as we ought " to be; and ſo far I confeſs I have gone; for I have " often pitied the fate of a highwayman, when I have " been on the grand jury; and have more than once " applied to the judge on the behalf of ſuch as have had " any mitigating circumſtances in their caſe; but when " diſhoneſty is attended with any blacker crime, ſuch as " cruelty, murder, ingratitude, or the like, compaſſion " and forgiveneſs then become faults. I am convinced " the fellow is a villain, and he ſhall be puniſhed; at " leaſt as far as I can puniſh him."

This was ſpoke with ſo ſtern a voice, that Jones did not think proper to make any reply: beſides, the hour appointed by Mr Weſtern now drew ſo near, that he had barely left time to dreſs himſelf. Here therefore ended the preſent dialogue, and Jones retired to another room, where Partridge attended, according to order, with his clothes.

Partridge had ſcarce ſeen his maſter ſince the happy diſcovery. The poor fellow was unable either to contain or expreſs his tranſports. He behaved like one frantic, and made almoſt as many miſtakes while he was dreſſing Jones, as I have ſeen made by Harlequin in dreſſing himſelf on the ſtage.

His memory, however, was not in the leaſt deficient. He recollected now many omens and preſages of this happy event, ſome of which he had remarked at the time, but many more he now remembered; nor did he omit the dreams he had dreamt the evening before his meeting with Jones; and concluded with ſaying, " I al- " ways told your honour ſomething boded in my mind, " that you would one time or other have it in your " power to make my fortune." Jones aſſured him, that this boding ſhould as certainly be verified with regard to him, as all the other omens had been to himſelf; which did not a little add to all the raptures which the poor fellow had already conceived on account of his maſter.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

Approaching ſtill nearer to the end.

JONES being now completely dreſſed, attended his uncle to Mr Weſtern's. He was indeed one of the fineſt figures ever beheld, and his perſon alone would have charmed the greater part of womankind; but we hope it hath already appeared in this hiſtory, that nature, when ſhe formed him, did not totally rely, as ſhe ſometimes doth, on this merit only, to recommend her work.

Sophia, who, angry as ſhe was, was likewiſe ſet forth to the beſt advantage, for which I leave my female readers to account, appeared ſo extremely beautiful that even Allworthy, when he ſaw her, could not forbear whiſpering Weſtern, that he believed ſhe was the fineſt creature in the world. To which Weſtern anſwered, in a whiſper overheard by all preſent, "So much the better for "Tom;——for d—n me if he ſhan't ha the touſling "her." Sophia was all over ſcarlet at theſe words, while Tom's countenance was altogether as pale, and he was almoſt ready to ſink from his chair.

The tea-table was ſcarce removed, before Weſtern lugged Allworthy out of the room, telling him, he had buſineſs of conſequence to impart, and muſt ſpeak to him that inſtant in private before he forgot it.

The lovers were now alone, and it will, I queſtion not, appear ſtrange to many readers, that thoſe who had ſo much to ſay to one another when danger and difficulty attended their converſation: and who ſeemed ſo eager to ruſh into each others arms, when ſo many bars lay in their way, now that with ſafety they were at liberty to ſay or do whatever they pleaſed, ſhould both remain for ſome time ſilent and motionleſs; inſomuch that a ſtranger of moderate ſagacity might have well concluded they were mutually indifferent; but ſo it was, however ſtrange it may ſeem; both ſat with their eyes caſt downwards on the ground, and for ſome minutes continued in perfect ſilence.

Mr

Mr Jones, during this interval, attempted once or twice to ſpeak, but was abſolutely incapable, muttering only, or rather ſighing out, ſome broken words; when Sophia at length, partly out of pity to him, and partly to turn the diſcourſe from the ſubject which ſhe knew well enough he was endeavouring to open, ſaid;——

"Sure, Sir, you are the moſt fortunate man in the "world in this diſcovery." "And can you really, "Madam, think me ſo fortunate," ſaid Jones, ſighing, "while I have incurred your diſpleaſure?"——"Nay, "Sir," ſays ſhe, "as to that, you beſt know whether you "have deſerved it." "Indeed, Madam," anſwered he, "you yourſelf are as well appriſed of all my demerits. "Mrs Miller hath acquainted you with the whole truth. "O! my Sophia, am I never to hope for forgiveneſs?" "I think, Mr Jones," ſaid ſhe, "I may almoſt depend "on your own juſtice, and leave it to yourſelf to paſs "ſentence on your own conduct."——"Alas! Ma-"dam," anſwered he, "it is mercy, and not juſtice, "which I implore at your hands. Juſtice I know muſt "condemn me.——Yet not for the letter I ſent to Lady "Bellaſton. Of that I moſt ſolemnly declare you have had "a true account." He then inſiſted much on the ſecurity given him by Nightingale, of a fair pretence for breaking off, if, contrary to their expectations, her ladyſhip ſhould have accepted his offer; but confeſt that he had been guilty of a great indiſcretion to put ſuch a letter as that into her power, "which," ſaid he, "I "have dearly paid for in the effect it has upon you." "I do not, I cannot," ſays ſhe, "believe otherwiſe of "that letter than you would have me. My conduct, I "think, ſhews you clearly I do not believe there is much "in that; and yet, Mr Jones, have I not enough to "reſent? After what paſt at Upton, ſo ſoon to engage "in a new amour with another woman, while I fancied, "and you pretended, your heart was bleeding for me! "——Indeed you have acted ſtrangely. Can I believe "the paſſion you have profeſt to me to be ſincere? or, "if I can, what happineſs can I aſſure myſelf of with a "man capable of ſo much inconſtancy?" "O! my So-"phia," cried he, "do not doubt the ſincerity of the

" pureſt paſſion that ever inflamed a human breaſt. " Think, moſt adorable creature, of my unhappy ſitua- " tion, of my deſpair.——Could I, my Sophia, have flat- " tered myſelf with the moſt diſtant hopes of being ever " permitted to throw myſelf at your feet, in the manner " I do now, it would not have been in the power of " any other woman to have inſpired a thought which " the ſevereſt chaſtity could have condemned. Incon- " ſtancy to you!—O Sophia! if you can have goodneſs " enough to pardon what is paſt, do not let any cruel " future apprehenſions ſhut your mercy againſt me—— " No repentance was ever more ſincere. O let it re- " concile me to my heaven in this dear boſom." " Sin- " cere repentance, Mr Jones," anſwered ſhe, " will ob- " tain the pardon of a ſinner, but it is from one who is " a perfect judge of that ſincerity. A human mind may " be impoſed on; nor is there any infallible method to " prevent it. You muſt expect, however, that if I can " be prevailed on by your repentance to pardon you, I " will at leaſt inſiſt on the ſtrongeſt proof of its ſincerity." " Name any proof in my power," anſwered Jones eager- " ly. " Time," replied ſhe; " time alone, Mr Jones, " can convince me that you are a true penitent, and " have reſolved to abandon thoſe vicious courſes, which " I ſhould deteſt you for, if I imagined you capable of " perſevering in them." " Do not imagine it," cries Jones. " On my knees I entreat, I implore your confidence, a " confidence which it ſhall be the buſineſs of my life to de- " ſerve." " Let it then," ſaid ſhe, " be the buſineſs of " ſome part of your life to ſhew me you deſerve it. I " think I have been explicit enough in aſſuring you, " that when I ſee you merit my confidence, you will ob- " tain it. After what is paſt, Sir, can you expect I ſhould " take you upon your word?"

He replied, " Don't believe me upon my word; I have " a better ſecurity, a pledge for my conſtancy, which it " is impoſſible to ſee and to doubt." " What is that?" ſaid Sophia, a little ſurpriſed. " I will ſhew you my " charming angel," cried Jones, ſeizing her hand, and carrying her to the glaſs. " There, behold it there in " that lovely figure, in that face, that ſhape, thoſe eyes,

" that

" that mind which ſhines through theſe eyes: can the " man who ſhall be in poſſeſſion of theſe be inconſtant? " impoſſible! my Sophia: they would fix a Dorimant, a " Lord Rocheſter. You could not doubt it, if you could " ſee yourſelf with any eyes but your own." Sophia bluſhed, and half ſmiled; but forcing again her brow in- " to a frown, " If I am to judge," ſaid ſhe, " of the " future by the paſt, my image will no more remain in " your heart when I am out of your ſight, than it will " in this glaſs when I am out of the room." " By hea- " ven, by all that is ſacred," ſaid Jones, " it never was " out of my heart. The delicacy of your ſex cannot " conceive the groſſneſs of ours, nor how little one ſort " of amour has to do with the heart." " I will never " marry a man," replied Sophia, very gravely, " who " ſhall not learn refinement enough to be as incapable " as I am myſelf of making ſuch a diſtinction." " I " will learn it," ſaid Jones. " I have learnt it already. " The firſt moment of hope that my Sophia might be " my wife, taught it me at once, and all the reſt of her " ſex from that moment became as little the objects of " deſire to my ſenſe as of paſſion to my heart." " Well," ſaid Sophia, " the proof of this muſt be from time. " Your ſituation, Mr Jones, is now altered, and I aſſure " you I have great ſatisfaction in the alteration. You " will now want no opportunity of being near me, and " convincing me that your mind is altered too." " O! " my angel," cries Jones, " how ſhall I thank thy " goodneſs? And are you ſo good to own that you " have a ſatisfaction in my proſperity?——Believe me, " believe me, Madam, it is you alone have given a reliſh " to that proſperity, ſince I owe to it the dear hope-—— " O! my Sophia, let it not be a diſtant one.——I will " be all obedience to your commands. I will not dare " to preſs any thing further than you permit me. Yet let " me intreat you to appoint a ſhort trial. O! tell me, when " I may expect you will be convinced of what is moſt ſo- " lemnly true." " When I have gone voluntarily thus " far, Mr Jones," ſaid ſhe, " I expect not to be preſſed, " nay, I will not."—" O don't look unkindly thus, my " Sophia," cries he. " I do not, I dare not preſs you. " —Yet permit me at leaſt once more to beg you would

" fix the period. O! conſider the impatience of love." " A twelvemonth, perhaps, ſaid ſhe." " O my Sophia," cries he, " you have named an eternity."—" Perhaps it " may be ſomething ſooner," ſays ſhe; I will not be teaz- " ed. If your paſſion for me be what I would have it, " I think you may now be eaſy."—" Eaſy, Sophia! call " not ſuch exulting happineſs as mine by ſo cold a name. " ——O! tranſporting thought! am I not aſſured that " the bleſſed day will come, when I ſhall call you mine; " when fears ſhall be no more; when I ſhall have that " dear, that vaſt, that exquiſite, ecſtatic delight of making " my Sophia happy!"——" Indeed, Sir," ſaid ſhe, " that day is in your own power."——" O! my dear, " my divine angel," cried he, " theſe words have made " me mad with joy.—But I muſt, I will thank thoſe " dear lips which have ſo ſweetly pronounced my bliſs." He then caught her in his arms, and kiſſed her with an ardour he had never ventured before.

At this inſtant, Weſtern, who had ſtood ſome time liſtening, burſt into the room, and with his hunting voice and phraſe, cried out, " To her boy, to her, go to her.— " That's it, little honeys, O that's it. Well, what, is all " over? hath ſhe appointed the day, boy? What, ſhall " it be to-morrow or next day? it ſhan't be put off a " minute longer than next day, I am reſolved."—— " Let me beſeech you, Sir," ſays Jones, " don't let me " be the occaſion"—" Beſeech mine a—," cries Weſ- tern, " I thought thou hadſt been a lad of higher mettle " than to give way to a parcel of maideniſh tricks.—I " tell thee 'tis all ſlim-flam. Zoodikers! ſhe'd have the " wedding to-night with all her heart. Would'ſt not, " Sophy? Come, confeſs, and be an honeſt girl for " once. What, art dumb? Why doſt not ſpeak?"—— " Why ſhould I confeſs, Sir," ſays Sophia, " ſince it " ſeems you are ſo well acquainted with my thoughts!" ——" That's a good girl," cries he; " and doſt conſent " then?——" No indeed, Sir," ſays Sophia, " I have " given no ſuch conſent."—" And wunt nut ha un then " to-morrow, nor next day?" ſays Weſtern.—" Indeed, " Sir, ſays ſhe, I have no ſuch intention."—" But I can " tell thee," replied he, " why haſt nut; only becauſe

" thou

" thou doſt love to be diſobedient, and to plague and " vex thy father,"——" Pray, Sir," ſaid Jones interfering,——" I tell thee thou art a puppy," cried he. " When " I forbid her, then it was all nothing but ſighing, " and whining, and languiſhing, and writing; now I " am vor thee, ſhe is againſt thee. All the ſpirit of con- " trary, that's all. She is above being guided and go- " verned by her father, that is the whole truth on't. It " is only to diſoblige and contradict me."——" What " would my papa have me do?" cries Sophia.—" What " would I ha thee do?" ſays he, " why gi un thy hand " this moment."——" Well, Sir," ſaid Sophia, " I will " obey you. There is my hand, Mr Jones." " Well, " and will you conſent to ha un to-morrow morning?" ſays Weſtern.——" I will be obedient to you, Sir," cries ſhe.——" Why then to-morrow morning be the day." ——" Why then to-morrow morning ſhall be the day, " papa, ſince you will have it ſo," ſays Sophia.——Jones then fell upon his knees, and kiſſed her hand in an agony of joy, while Weſtern began to caper and dance about the room, preſently crying out,—" Where the de- " vil is Allworthy? He is without now, a talking with " that d——d lawyer Dowling, when he ſhould be mind- " ing other matters."——He then ſallied out in queſt of him, and very opportunely left the lovers to enjoy a few tender minutes alone.

But he ſoon returned with Allworthy, ſaying, " If " you won't believe me, you may aſk her yourſelf. Haſt " nut gi'n thy conſent, Sophy, to be married to-mor- " row?" " Such are your commands, Sir," cries Sophia, " and I dare not be guilty of diſobedience."—— " I hope, Madam," cries Allworthy, " my nephew will " merit ſo much goodneſs, and will be always as ſenſible " as myſelf of the great honour you have done my fami- " ly. An alliance with ſo charming and ſo excellent a " young lady would indeed be an honour to the greateſt " in England."——" Yes," cries Weſtern, " but if I " had ſuffered her to ſtand, ſhill I, ſhall I, dilly dally, " you might not have had that honour yet a while; I " was forced to uſe a little fatherly authority to bring her " to."——" I hope not, Sir," cries Allworthy, " I

" hope

"hope there is not the leaſt conſtraint." "Why, "there," cries Weſtern, "you may bid her unſay all "again, if you will. Do'ſt repent heartily of thy pro- "miſe, do'ſt not Sophy?" "Indeed, papa," cries ſhe, "I do not repent, nor do I believe I ever ſhall, of any "promiſe in favour of Mr Jones."—"Then, nephew," cries Allworthy, "I felicitate you moſt heartily; for I "think you are the happieſt of men. And, Madam, "you will give me leave to congratulate you on this joy- "ful occaſion: indeed, I am convinced you have beſtow- "ed yourſelf on one who will be ſenſible of your great "merit, and who will at leaſt uſe his beſt endeavours to "deſerve it." "His beſt endeavours!" cries Weſtern, "that he will, I warrant un.——Harkee, Allworthy, I'll "bet thee five pound to a crown we have a boy to- "morrow nine months: but prithee tell me what wut "ha! Wut ha Burgundy, Champaigne, or what? for "pleaſe Jupiter, we'll make a night on't." "Indeed, "Sir," ſaid Allworthy, "you muſt excuſe me: both "my nephew and I were engaged before I ſuſpected this "near approach of his happineſs."———"Engaged!" quoth the 'ſquire, "never tell me.—I won't part with "thee to-night upon any occaſion. Shalt ſup here, "pleaſe the Lord Harry." "You muſt pardon me, "my dear neighbour," anſwered Allworthy; "I have "given a ſolemn promiſe, and that you know I "never break." "Why, prithee, who art engaged to?" cries the 'ſquire.——Allworthy then informed him, as likewiſe of the company.——"Odzookers!" anſwered the 'ſquire, "I will go with thee, and ſo ſhall Sophy; "for I won't part with thee to-night; and it would be "barbarous to part Tom and the girl." This offer was preſently embraced by Allworthy; and Sophia conſented, having firſt obtained a private promiſe from her father, that he would not mention a ſyllable concerning her marriage.

CHAP.

CHAP. *The laſt.*

In which the Hiſtory is concluded.

YOUNG Nightingale had been that afternoon, by appointment, to wait on his father, who received him much more kindly than he expected. There likewiſe he met his uncle, who was returned to town in queſt of his new-married daughter.

This marriage was the luckieſt incident which could have happened to the young gentleman; for theſe brothers lived in a conſtant ſtate of contention about the government of their children, both heartily deſpiſing the method which each other took. Each of them therefore now endeavoured as much as he could to palliate the offence which his own child had committed, and to aggravate the match of the other. This deſire of triumphing over his brother, added to the many arguments which Allworthy had uſed, ſo ſtrongly operated on the old gentleman, that he met his ſon with a ſmiling countenance, and actually agreed to ſup with him that evening at Mrs Miller's.

As for the other, who really loved his daughter with the moſt immoderate affection, there was little difficulty in inclining him to a reconciliation. He was no ſooner informed by his nephew, where his daughter and her huſband were, than he declared he would inſtantly go to her. And when he arrived there, he ſcarce ſuffered her to fall upon her knees, before he took her up, and embraced her with a tenderneſs which affected all who ſaw him; and in leſs than a quarter of an hour was as well reconciled to both her and her huſband as if he had himſelf joined their hands.

In this ſituation were affairs, when Mr Allworthy and his company arrived to complete the happineſs of Mrs Miller, who no ſooner ſaw Sophia, than ſhe gueſſed every thing that had happened; and ſo great was her friendſhip to Jones, that it added not a few tranſports to thoſe ſhe felt on the happineſs of her own daughter.

There

There have not, I believe, been many inſtances of a number of people met together, where every one was ſo perfectly happy as in this company, amongſt whom the father of young Nightingale enjoyed the leaſt perfect content; for notwithſtanding his affection for his ſon; notwithſtanding the authority and arguments of Allworthy, together with the other motive mentioned before, he could not ſo entirely be ſatisfied with his ſon's choice; and perhaps the preſence of Sophia herſelf tended a little to aggravate and heighten his concern, as a thought now and then ſuggeſted itſelf, that his ſon might have had that lady, or ſome ſuch other. Not that any of the charms which adorned either the perſon or mind of Sophia created the uneaſineſs; it was the contents of her father's coffers which ſet his heart a-longing. Theſe were the charms which he could not bear to think his ſon had ſacrificed to the daughter of Mrs Miller.

The brides were both very pretty women; but ſo totally were they eclipſed by the beauty of Sophia, that had they not been two of the beſt tempered girls in the world, it would have raiſed ſome envy in their breaſts; for neither of their huſbands could long keep his eyes from Sophia, who ſat at the table like a queen receiving homage, or rather like a ſuperior being receiving adoration from all around her. But it was an adoration which they gave, not which ſhe exacted; for ſhe was as much diſtinguiſhed by her modeſty and affability as by all her perfections.

The evening was ſpent in much true mirth. All were happy, but thoſe the moſt who had been moſt unhappy before. Their former ſufferings and fears gave ſuch a reliſh to their felicity, as even love and fortune in their fulleſt flow could not have given without the advantage of ſuch a compariſon. Yet as great joy, eſpecially after a ſudden change and revolution of circumſtances, is apt to be ſilent, and dwell rather in the heart than on the tongue, Jones and Sophia appeared the leaſt merry of the whole company; which Weſtern obſerved with great impatience, often crying out to them, "Why do'ſt not "talk, boy? Why do'ſt look ſo grave? Haſt loſt thy "tongue, girl? Drink another glaſs of wine, ſha't drink "another glaſs." And the more to enliven her, he would

would ſometimes ſing a merry ſong, which bore ſome relation to matrimony, and the loſs of a maidenhead. Nay, he would have proceeded ſo far on that topic, as to have driven her out of the room if Mr Allworthy had not checked him ſometimes by looks, and once or twice by a "Fie! Mr Weſtern." He began indeed once to debate the matter, and aſſert his right to talk to his own daughter as he thought fit; but as nobody ſeconded him, he was ſoon reduced to order.

Notwithſtanding this little reſtraint, he was ſo pleaſed with the cheerfulneſs and good humour of the company, that he inſiſted on their meeting the next day at his lodgings. They all did ſo; and the lovely Sophia, who was now in private become a bride too, officiated as the miſtreſs of the ceremonies, or in polite phraſe, did the honours of the table. She had that morning given her hand to Jones, in the Chapel at Doctors-Commons, where Mr Allworthy, Mr Weſtern, and Mrs Miller, were the only perſons preſent.

Sophia had earneſtly deſired her father, that no others of the company, who were that day to dine with him, ſhould be acquainted with her marriage. The ſame ſecrecy was enjoined to Mrs Miller, and Jones undertook for Allworthy. This ſomewhat reconciled the delicacy of Sophia to the public entertainment, which, in compliance with her father's will, ſhe was obliged to go to, greatly againſt her own inclinations. In confidence of this ſecrecy, ſhe went through the day pretty well, 'till the 'ſquire, who was now advanced into the ſecond bottle, could contain his joy no longer, but filling out a bumper, drank a health to the bride. The health was immediately pledged by all preſent, to the great confuſion of our poor bluſhing Sophia, and the great concern of Jones upon her account. To ſay truth, there was not a perſon preſent made wiſer by this diſcovery; for Mrs Miller had whiſpered it to her daughter, her daughter to her huſband, her huſband to his ſiſter, and ſhe to all the reſt.

Sophia now took the firſt opportunity of withdrawing with the ladies, and the 'ſquire ſat in to his cups, in which, he was, by degrees, deſerted by all the comp ny,

except the uncle of young Nightingale, who loved his bottle as well as Weſtern himſelf. Theſe two, therefore, ſat ſtoutly to it, during the whole evening, and long after that happy hour which had ſurrendered the charming Sophia to the eager arms of her enraptured Jones.

Thus, reader, we have at length brought our hiſtory to a concluſion, in which, to our great pleaſure, though contrary perhaps to thy expectation, Mr Jones appears to be the happieſt of all human kind: for what happineſs this world affords equal to the poſſeſſion of ſuch a woman as Sophia, I ſincerely own I have never yet diſcovered.

As to the other perſons who have made any conſiderable figure in this hiſtory, as ſome may deſire to know a little more concerning them, we will proceed, in as few words as poſſible, to ſatisfy their curioſity.

Allworthy hath never yet been prevailed upon to ſee Blifil, but he hath yielded to the importunity of Jones, backed by Sophia, to ſettle 200*l.* a year upon him; to which Jones hath privately added a third. Upon this income he lives in one of the northern counties, about 200 miles diſtant from London, and lays up 200*l.* a year out of it, in order to purchaſe a ſeat in the next parliament from a neighbouring borough, which he has bargained for with an attorney. He hath alſo lately turned methodiſt, in hopes of marrying a very rich widow of that ſect, whoſe eſtate lies in that part of the kingdom.

Square died ſoon after he writ the before-mentioned letter; and as to Thwackum, he continues at his vicarage. He hath made many fruitleſs attempts to regain the confidence of Allworthy, or to ingratiate himſelf with Jones, both of whom he flatters to their faces, and abuſes behind their backs. But in his ſtead, Mr Allworthy hath lately taken Mr Abraham Adams into his houſe, of whom Sophia is grown immoderately fond, and declares he ſhall have the tuition of her children.

Mrs Fitzpatrick is ſeparated from her huſband, and retains the little remains of her fortune. She lives in reputation at the polite end of the town, and is ſo good an economiſt, that ſhe ſpends three times the income of her fortune,

fortune, without running indebt. She maintains a perfect intimacy with the lady of the Iriſh peer; and in acts of friendſhip to her repays all the obligations ſhe owes to her huſband.

Mrs Weſtern was ſoon reconciled to her niece Sophia, and hath ſpent two months together with her in the country. Lady Bellaſton made the latter a formal viſit at her return to town, where ſhe behaved to Jones as to a perfect ſtranger, and with great civility wiſhed him joy on his marriage.

Mr Nightingale hath purchaſed an eſtate for his ſon in the neighbourhood of Jones, where the young gentleman, his lady, Mrs Miller, and her little daughter reſide, and the moſt agreeable intercourſe ſubſiſts between the two families.

As to thoſe of lower account, Mrs Waters returned into the country, had a penſion of 60l. a-year ſettled upon her by Mr Allworthy, and is married to parſon Supple, on whom, at the inſtance of Sophia, Weſtern hath beſtowed a conſiderable living.

Black George hearing the diſcovery that had been made, run away, and was never ſince heard of; and Jones beſtowed the money on his family, but not in equal proportions, for Molly had much the greateſt ſhare.

As for Partridge, Jones hath ſettled 50l. a-year on him; and he hath again ſet up a ſchool, in which he meets with much better encouragement than formerly; and there is now a treaty of marriage on foot between him and Miſs Molly Seagrim, which through the mediation of Sophia is likely to take effect.

We now return to take leave of Mr Jones and Sophia, who, within two days after their marriage, attended Mr Weſtern and Mr Allworthy into the country. Weſtern hath reſigned his family-ſeat, and the greater part of his eſtate, to his ſon-in-law, and hath retired to a leſſer houſe of his in another part of the country, which is better for hunting. Indeed he is often as a viſitant with Mr Jones, who, as well as his daughter, hath an infinite delight in doing every thing in their power to pleaſe him. And this deſire of theirs is attended with ſuch ſucceſs, that the old gentleman declares he was never

happy in his life till now. He hath here a parlour and anti-chamber to himſelf, where he gets drunk with whom he pleaſes; and his daughter is ſtill as ready as formerly to play to him whenever he deſires it; Jones hath aſſured her, that as next to pleaſing her, one of his higheſt ſatisfactions is to contribute to the happineſs of the old man; ſo the great duty which ſhe expreſſes and performs to her father renders her almoſt equally dear to him, with the love which ſhe beſtows on himſelf.

Sophia hath already produced him two fine children, a boy, and a girl, of whom the old gentleman is ſo fond, that he ſpends much of his time in the nurſery, where he declares the tattling of his little grand-daughter, who is above a year and a half old, is ſweeter muſic than the fineſt cry of dogs in England.

Allworthy was likewiſe greatly liberal to Jones on the marriage, and hath omitted no inſtance of ſhewing his affection to him and his lady, who love him as a father. Whatever in the nature of Jones had a tendency to vice, has been corrected by a continual converſation with this good man, and by his union with the lovely and virtuous Sophia. He hath alſo, by reflection on his paſt follies, acquired a diſcretion and prudence very uncommon in one of his lively parts.

To conclude; as there are not to be found a worthier man and woman than this fond couple, ſo neither can any be imagined more happy. They preſerve the pureſt and tendereſt affection for each other, an affection daily encreaſed and confirmed by mutual endearments and mutual eſteem; nor is their conduct towards their relations and friends leſs amiable than towards one another: and ſuch is their condeſcenſion, their indulgence, and their beneficence to thoſe below them, that there is not a neighbour, a tenant, or a ſervant, who doth not moſt gratefully bleſs the day when Mr Jones was married to his Sophia.

FINIS.